

LAVENDER[®]



WEDDING
ADVICE
FROM AN INSIDER

FAVORITE
THINGS
WEDDING STYLE

Wedding Gift
ETIQUETTE
HOW TO PROPERLY
SHOW YOU CARE

Buck the
TREND
ALTERNATIVE BRIDAL HAIR

SAY IT WITH
A CARD

Wedding STYLE ISSUE

553

LAVENDERMAGAZINE.COM
MINNESOTA'S GLBT MAGAZINE
AUGUST 4-17, 2016

Available on the
App Store
x 15,949

DOWNLOAD
THIS ISSUE ON
NEWSSTAND



JOIN 80.2K OF
US ON TWITTER
@BIGGAYNEWS



TOP 5
MAGAZINE
OF THE YEAR




NEXT LAVENDER'S
FIRST THURSDAY: 9/1/16
AT LONGFELLOW GRILL

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

12 DAYS AND 12 NIGHTS!

GRANDSTAND

Grandstand Concert Series sponsored by sleep  number.

Demi Lovato & Nick Jonas ★ Weezer
Bonnie Raitt ★ Dixie Chicks ★ Charlie Wilson
G-Eazy ★ Happy Together Tour 2016 ★ Don Henley
The Minnesota Show with Garrison Keillor
Amateur Talent Contest Finals ★ Alabama

Get Tickets! Visit etix.com or call 800-514-3849

Nightly Fireworks presented by  **mazda**

**100
ACTS!**



**900
SHOWS!**

FREE WITH ADMISSION!

LEINIE LODGE
**BANDSHELL
TONIGHT!**

Proudly sponsored by 

★ **G. Love & Special Sauce ★ Marty Stuart**
★ **Billy Bob Thornton & The Boxmasters ★ War**
★ **A Great Big World ★ The Spinners**
★ **AND SO MUCH MORE!**

Aug. 25 – Labor Day, Sept. 5 ★ mnstatefair.org



Twin Cities Bridal Show

The *Wedding* dream expo



SEPTEMBER 18, 2016 ✦ MARCH 5, 2017

SAINT PAUL RIVERCENTRE



LOVE
is what
WE DO!

unveiled™

inspiration . trends . style



November 13, 2016 | February 5, 2017 | Minneapolis Convention Center

Photos by Lauren B Photography, Anna Grinets Photography, Staja Studios and Studio Laguna



Special LAVENDER Discount to any show use Promo Code: LAVENDER at TheWeddingGuys.com



WASHINGTON GIN

Featuring amazing Washington grown botanicals including Fuji apple, Coriander, Lavender, Mint and hops all added to fresh Oregon Juniper berries. An amazingly light and refreshing gin.



JACK RUDY
COCKTAIL CO.



SMALL BATCH TONIC

For those who want a perfectly balanced G&T without being overwhelmed with the bitterness of today's tonic waters. This Tonic will blow you away, we call it the "Perfect Gin & Tonic".



Perfect Gin & Tonic

1.75 oz Dry Fly Gin
0.5 oz Jack Rudy Small Batch Tonic
Add Ice, Top With Soda Drink. Enjoy.



CRAFT SPIRITS
SALES & MARKETING

WWW.AMCRAFTSPIRITS.COM

Our products are crafted in the United States in small batches, and distributed carefully across the world to finer bottle shops, bars, restaurants and general fans of a delicious drink.

BUILT TO MOVE FAST.

PRICED TO MOVE
EVEN FASTER.



**2016 MASERATI
GHIBLI S Q4**

Sign & Drive
Lease
from

\$799/mo*

2 years of Pre-Paid Maintenance Included

*Stock #BN10414. 36 month 7,500 mi/yr lease. \$0 down payment plus first month's payment due at signing. OAC. Residency restrictions apply. In-stock units only. Limited time offer.



MASERATI
OF MINNEAPOLIS

7300 Wayzata Boulevard, Golden Valley, MN 55426 763-449-4100 morriesluxuryauto.com

CONTENTS

LAVENDER

FEATURE: WEDDING STYLE

- 26** Wedding Advice from an Insider
- 30** Favorite Things: Wedding Style
- 32** Alternative Bridal Hair
- 36** Wedding Gift Etiquette
- 42** Say It With A Card

OUR LAVENDER

- 10** From the Editor
- 12** A Word in Edgewise
- 14** Lavender Lens

OUR SCENE

- 16** Eat the Menu: Eat the Fair
- 20** Arts: Spotlight
- 22** Arts: Fringe Fest Preview

OUR LIVES

- 46** Leather Life

OUR HOMES

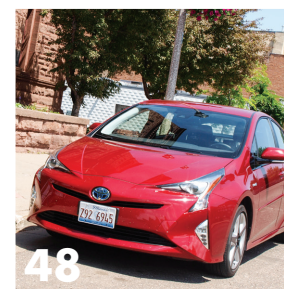
- 48** Ride Review

OUR RESOURCES

- 53** Classifieds
- 54** The Network
- 56** Community Connection

OUR VOICES

- 52** Skirting the Issues
- 52** Trolin
- 58** At-Large



Page 16: Photo courtesy of Minnesota State Fair. Page 20: Photo by Tracy Martin. Page 22: Photo by José Castaño Villalobos. Page 48: Photo by Randy Stern.

ONLINE



Online Magazine



Prizes



LavenderMagazine.com

ON THE COVER

Wedding Style is a colorful topic. Pictured here is Queenie von Curves for Fox Den Salon. Photo by Hubert Bonnet

Available on www.LavenderMagazine.com: Our Online Magazine, read it on your computer, iPad, iPhone, or DROID. Prizes, register to win. Exclusive content only online, not in print.

LAWYER



27 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Call me when you need legal help.

Practice areas: Real Estate, Contracts, Litigation, Estate Planning, Collections and more....



HELTZER
LAW OFFICE, LLC

101 E. 5TH STREET, #2626
ST. PAUL, MN 55101
651-330-8508

WWW.HELTZERLAW.COM

Looking for a way to save?

You need to insure both your auto and your home, so why not save money in the process? Call today for a free, no obligation look at auto and home discounts from American Family.



Dawn Bartell Agency
4649 Bloomington Avenue
Minneapolis, MN
dbartell@amfam.com
612.333.5554



American Family Mutual Insurance Company and its Subsidiaries
American Standard Insurance Company of Wisconsin
Home Office - Madison, WI 53783
American Family Insurance Company
American Standard Insurance Company of Ohio
Home Office - Columbus, OH 43240
www.amfam.com © 2008



For Health. For Vision. For Life.

A 100% GLBT-owned eye clinic with a doctor you can trust for ALL your eye care needs:

- Unique, trendy glasses
- Eye emergencies
- Eye diseases such as glaucoma and macular degeneration
- Annual eye examinations
- Contact lens fittings
- Experts in eye health and nutrition

ASK ABOUT
OUR LAVENDER
DISCOUNT!

Dr. David Bane

612-869-1333 • originseyeclinik.com

6601 Lyndale Ave S, Suite #160 • Richfield, MN 55423



10 out of 10 optimists believe in themselves.



The difference between impossible and possible often starts with a person saying, "I think I can." At U.S. Bank, we think you can too. And with our competitive products and services, we're here to help in every way we can.

PERSONAL | BUSINESS | WEALTH MANAGEMENT



Find your possible at a U.S. Bank branch, call 800.825.BANK (2265), or visit usbank.com/possible.



the POWER of POSSIBLE™



Investment products are:

NOT FDIC INSURED | MAY LOSE VALUE | NOT GUARANTEED BY THE BANK | NOT A DEPOSIT | NOT INSURED BY ANY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY

Credit products offered by U.S. Bank National Association and subject to normal credit approval. Deposit products offered by U.S. Bank National Association. Member FDIC. ©2016 U.S. Bank. "World's Most Ethical Companies" and "Ethisphere" names and marks are registered trademarks of Ethisphere LLC.



Reasons to buy from Flooring Expo:

- Vast selection of colors & styles
- Next-day installation*
- Warrantied installation

4 Convenient Locations:
 Uptown (28th & Hennepin)**
 Edina (in Hirshfields)
 Roseville (in Hirshfields)
 Woodbury (Hwy 94 & Radio Dr)

*Available on in stock products
 **Open by appointment

Carpet • Wood • Laminate • Vinyl • Cork • Tile

FLOORING EXPO
 STAINMASTER FLOORING CENTER

www.FlooringExpo.com
 Hours: M–F 9–8, Sat 10–6, Sun 12–5

Love knows no border.

Immigration is still complicated. We have years of experience working with same-sex bi-national couples to help obtain immigration status and keep you together.

Angela Bortel was selected as a 2013 & 2014 “Rising Star” among Immigration Lawyers by Super Lawyers.



Angela Bortel
 Owner and
 Managing Attorney

*Please see the Super Lawyer’s site for selection criteria.

THE BORTEL FIRM, LLC

825 Nicollet Mall, Ste. 811 Mpls, MN 55402 • info@bortelfirm.com • www.bortelfirm.com • 612.388.3366

LAVENDER[®]

Volume 22, Issue 553 • August 4-17, 2016

Editorial

Managing Editor Andy Lien 612-436-4671

Assistant Managing Editor Shane Lueck 612-436-4692

Editorial Assistant Linda Raines 612-436-4694

Editor Emeritus Ethan Boatner

Editorial Associate George Holdgrafer

Arts Editor-At-Large John Mark

Contributors Kathleen Bradbury, Thomas Ehnert, Nell Gelhaus, Ellen Krug, Steve Lenius, Shane Lueck, John Mark, Jennifer Parello, Randy Stern, Joy Summers, John Townsend, Bradley Traynor, Carla Waldemar

Advertising

Sales & Advertising Director Barry Leavitt 612-436-4690

Senior Account Executive Suzanne Farrell 612-436-4699

Account Executives Robert Felton 612-436-4697, Richard Kranz 612-436-4675, Jory Miller 612-436-4695

Advertising Associate George Holdgrafer

Sales & Advertising Traffic Coordinator

Linda Raines 612-436-4694

Sales Lead Specialist Michelle Ulmer 612-436-4693

Classifieds Suzanne Farrell 612-436-4699

National Sales Representative Rivendell Media

212-242-6863

Creative

Creative Director Hubert Bonnet 612-436-4678

Graphic Designer Mike Hnida 612-436-4679

Photographer Sophia Hantzes

Lavender Studios Hubert Bonnet, Mike Hnida

Administration

Publisher Lavender Media, Inc.

President & CEO Stephen Rocheford 612-436-4665

Vice President & CC Pierre Tardif 612-436-4666

Chief Financial Officer Mary Lauer 612-436-4664

Distribution Manager/Administrative Assistant Molly Gosh 612-436-4660

Founders George Holdgrafer, Stephen Rocheford

Inspiration Steven W. Anderson (1954-1994), Timothy J. Lee (1968-2002), Russell Berg (1957-2005), Kathryn Rocheford (1914-2006), Jonathan Halverson (1974-2010), Adam Houghtaling (1984-2012), Walker Pearce (1946-2013), Tim Campbell (1939-2015)

Letters are subject to editing for grammar, punctuation, space, and libel. They should be no more than 300 words. Letters must include name, address, and phone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Priority will be given to letters that refer to material previously published in Lavender Magazine. Submit letters to Lavender Magazine, Letters to the Editor, 7701 York Ave S, Suite 225, Edina, MN 55435; or e-mail <editor@lavendermagazine.com>.

For our Privacy Policy, go to LavenderMagazine.com/resources/privacy-policy

Lavender Media, Inc.

7701 York Ave S, Suite 225, Edina, MN 55435

612-436-4660 **Office**

612-436-4685 **Fax**

612-436-4660 **Subscriptions/Distribution**

612-436-4660 **Lavender Advertising**

612-436-4698 **NEPA Advertising**

LAVENDER
 MAGAZINE.COM
 LavenderMagazine.com

BIG GAY NEWS
 ICOM
 BigGayNews.com

A Audit Bureau of Circulations Member

mmipa Member

Printer of Lavender

SP Schumann Printers, Inc.
 920-484-3348

Entire contents copyright 2016. All rights reserved. Publication of the name or photograph of any person, organization, or business in this magazine does not reflect upon one's sexual orientation whatsoever. Lavender Magazine reserves the right to refuse any advertising. This issue of Lavender Magazine is available free of charge during the time period published on the cover. Pickup at one of our distribution sites is limited to one copy per person.



TACORI

AVAILABLE AT

ARTHUR'S
JEWELERS

TACORI EVENT JULY 28-30
1717 LEXINGTON AVE N

HIV+? On treatment? CD4 not going up?

Join a study at the
University of Minnesota that is
using an innovative new therapy to
boost CD4 cells and restore immunity.
You will receive compensation for
your participation in this study.

Call today and see if you qualify.
Interpreter services available.

612-625-7472
hiv.umn.edu

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to DiscoverSM

Celebrating with Style

Cultures around the world embrace the pomp and circumstance of weddings, and I revel in how a day can be transformed to celebrate the love of two people in ways that incorporate clothing, florals, venue, food, cake, music, and all things swag. You want a logo for your day? It can be designed. A special font? Pick it. Color schemes and party favors and photographers and a special vehicle for the arrival at the reception are eye candy for my marketing-loving self. I laud a well-done gimmick and there's nothing so gimmicky in each of our lives as a wedding. And I mean that in a good way. Weddings as gimmicks grab our attention and pull us into the relationships of others, give us a stake in their lives and well-being, and hold us accountable as witnesses to their union. I just love weddings.

I'm sure I'm not alone in how I've internalized this idea that people have to sacrifice to prepare themselves for their special day. I've joked about how someone came out of the womb with a three-ring binder for planning their big day, they just needed the significant other to round out the experience. We agonize over guest lists and have fun playing laser tag with the scanner guns when we go to register for gifts. People are chosen to stand up for us at our ceremonies and they wear special clothing that we'd never ask them to wear any other day of their lives, but feel justified in doing so on our "big day." And, for ourselves, we too often go out and find clothes that are aspirational...and change ourselves until we fit them, and not the other way around.

This is where I'd like to offer some advice. When you think of getting married and start looking at what your day will involve, try to embrace and accept yourself, as you are. It's how your beloved loves you; who you are right now is who they want to marry, and that's what matters. In these pages, we talk about how to pick out suits, how to consider trends, how to feel comfortable

on your wedding day, and how to make sure you (and your hair) can last until the end of your reception. What we don't talk about is how to starve yourself to lose the last 15 pounds to fit into the tux you ordered, we don't talk about how to add reps to your workout so your arms look cut in that sleeveless dress, and we don't talk about how you need to change to make your day perfect.

Instead, we have some excellent examples of how to make weddings work for you. Emily Post's great-great-granddaughter, Lizzie, talks about how to make your current budget fit for wedding gift season, stressing the importance of not stretching your money too thin. Mike Marcotte gives us great ideas for gifts as well as gets advice from Anthony Andler of Heimie's Haberdashery about how to plan ahead and tailor what you wear for your wedding to suit you. Even greeting cards for weddings and relationships are dropping some of the stuffiness and getting real, as shown with examples from Papyrus and Emily McDowell Studio. And as far as the article regarding hair is concerned, not only does Sica at Fox Den Salon provide a safe space and wonderful hairstyles for members of this community, but some of the people who she chose to model her hairstyles are familiar to us as models and performers of burlesque; they are members of our community who are role models for body positivity and acceptance.

Wedding style. What's trendy and stylish is being yourself and being comfortable for your wedding day. At the risk of sounding gimmicky, your union deserves putting forth your most authentic self for each other, on your special day and every day after.

With you and with love,
Andy ■



Minnesota
Nice

Everything diamonds,
engagement & wedding rings


**YOUR PREMIER
DOWNTOWN JEWELER**

jb hudson
JEWELERS

901 NICOLLET • DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS
EST 1885

CAP
carpet & Flooring

Customer Service is our #1 GOAL
 Since 1980



Free In-Home Consultations
 Providing Great Flooring for over 34 years

**CARPET • HARD SURFACE FLOORING • COUNTERTOPS
 COMMERCIAL FLOORING**

651.636.2617 • 1449 1st Avenue NW • New Brighton, MN 55112
WWW.CAPCARPET.COM

LaMettry's®
 Collision, Glass and More!

**OVER 15 AUTO
 MANUFACTURER
 CERTIFICATIONS AND
 RECOGNITIONS**

THE ONLY AUDI AUTHORIZED ALUMINUM COLLISION REPAIRER IN THE 5 STATE AREA

Bloomington | Burnsville | Eden Prairie | Inver Grove Heights
 Lakeville | Maplewood | New Brighton | Richfield

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT **1-888-898-0016** OR GET AN ONLINE ESTIMATE AT **LAMETTRY.COM**

 **BOULEVARD
 CHIROPRACTIC**
 CLINIC, P.A.

THE ONLY THING WE CARE ABOUT
 BEING **STRAIGHT** IS YOUR **SPINE**

7200 MINNETONKA BOULEVARD ST. LOUIS PARK, MN 55426
 (952) 925-4847 | BLVDCHIRO.COM

**TWO GREAT DINING
 DESTINATIONS IN ONE BUILDING!**



UNION
 ROOFTOP
 BAR & GRILL

UNION ROOFTOP
 Features the only year-round glass enclosed
 & heated rooftop in Minnesota with breathtaking
 views of the Downtown Minneapolis skyline.

BAR & GRILL
 On the main level, features top quality
 American fare & a variety of bar snacks, burgers,
 sandwiches, tons of TV's, bar games & more!

731 Hennepin Ave. | Downtown Mpls | 612.455.6690 | www.UNIONMPLS.com

OUR LAVENDER

A WORD IN EDGEWISE | BY E.B. BOATNER

A Once and Future King?

I attended the Orpheum's opening performance of *The Lion King*, shaken by the previous days' deaths of Philando Castile and Alton Sterling, only to emerge to news of the shootings of five Dallas police officers.

For a few short hours, I was swept up by the fantastic power of theater, in a performance as enchanting as it must have been when it premiered here pre-Broadway in 1997. This is its fourth month-long tour here (through August 7), and on my second viewing I was still enchanted by the leaping, bounding creatures, the very life of the savanna. Roiling across the stage, spilling up and down the aisles, Julie Taymor's astounding costuming and puppetry draw the viewer into the action.

Reality reared its head with the evil Scar, murder, and the dissolution of a natural world through greed and violence. Although good won out, as it should, when Simba returned as king. Shamanically, the play teaches that we all have a place in the circle of life, illustrating that without that inclusion comes chaos and death.

It's likely that the myriad of young viewers were not troubled by the darker subtexts unfolding in the drama — after all, they'd collectively

seen it thousands of times over in the original Disney 1994 animated film and could maintain their faith in Simba till the end.

At the finale, as the actors, dancers, and puppeteers mingled together on stage, greeted with an ovation and ululation ringing the rafters like I'd only once ever heard before — in 1964 when the Beatles played live in the Boston Garden.

However, as I stood to cheer with the others, I could not help but notice how many of the performers were people of color. In a moment's darkness I hoped with all my heart that that no incident would find them pulled to the side of the road in what I still think of as our fair Cities find any one of them pulled to the side of the road in what I still think of as our fair Cities.

Leaving the Orpheum surrounded by parents and little knee-highs dressed in their theater togs ("That's the longest he's ever sat still," beamed one red-haired cherub's mom), I could not help but wonder what their world will be like when they escort their own offspring to see the king. ■



Gay-owned

Mill District DENTAL

NEW PATIENT OFFER:
\$99 Exam OR **FREE Whitening**
X-rays and cleaning with exam, x-rays and cleaning

612-877-8887 • www.milldistrictdental.com
1026 Washington Ave S, Suite 100 • Minneapolis

Brian Peters, DDS

Serving the LGBTQA community for over 30 years!

Stephen Parker PsyD, LP 651-325-7998	Steve Burns PhD, LP 612-990-0649	Debra Klein MSW, LICSW 612-343-1618
David Shannon MSW, LICSW 507-399-3789	Rick DuChene MA, LCP 612-839-6105	Catherine M. Hedberg MA, LP 651-434-3158

Northland Therapy Center

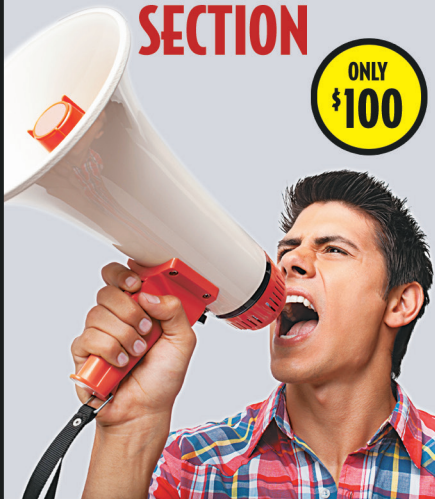


2324 University Ave. W.
Suite 100
St. Paul, MN 55114
651-641-1009

WWW.NORTHLANDTHERAPYCENTER.COM

LAVENDER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION

ONLY \$100



Announcement includes a photo and up to 50 words. Appears in print and our online edition for 2 weeks.

For more information call
612-436-4698



CLOUTIER LAW OFFICES P.A.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

OVER 25 YEARS OF LEGAL EXPERIENCE.



- Family/Divorce/Custody
- Injuries/Auto Accidents
- Second/Step Parent Adoption
- Wills & Trusts
- Domestic Partnerships/Dissolution
- Probate
- Prenuptial Agreements
- Business Law
- Sperm/Egg Donor Agreements
- Employment Law
- Gay Marriage Advice
- Bankruptcy



Elizabeth Cloutier
PFLAG Member

Convenient Downtown
Skyway Connected Offices

612.332.5100
www.cloutier-law.com
1005 Historic Lumber Exchange Building
10 S. 5th St. Minneapolis, MN 55402
FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION

uptown
dermatology & skinspa
p.a.

Education • Experience • Excellence
...with a smile!



Jaime Davis, MD, FAAD
Mayo Trained, Board Certified,
Award Winning Dermatologist



Nadine Miller, M.P.A.S., PA-C
Physician Assistant in Dermatology



Angela Rohland, C-FNP
Dermatology Nurse Practitioner

- Appointments within ONE week
- All major insurance accepted
- Fully licensed and credentialed providers

Uptown Row, Suite 208 • 1221 W. Lake Street • Minneapolis, MN 55408
612-455-3200 • www.UptownDermatology.com

We all deserve a
WHITE Wedding...

FREE whitening with New Patient Exam,
Xrays, and Cleaning



PARKSIDE
DENTAL

825 8TH ST., SUITE 1216, MINNEAPOLIS | 612-332-0559 | WWW.PARKSIDEDENTALPC.COM



OUR LAVENDER

LAVENDER LENS | PHOTOS BY SOPHIA HANTZES



TWIN CITIES FILM FEST "OUT" FEST

JUNE 11, 2016



GOLDEN VALLEY PRIDE

JUNE 12, 2016



The largest selection of **WINES**
(over 1600 labels) at all price points.

The largest selection of **BEERS**
(over 420 labels) from national brands
to small volume hard-to-find micro
brews.

A complete selection of **LIQUORS**, as
well as all the leading labels in Scotch,
Bourbon, Whisky, Rum, Vodka, Gin and
Brandy at industry-leading prices.

Access to our walk-in humidor with a
complete selection of **CIGARS**
(over 100 labels).

Knowledgeable staff to answer all
your beverage questions

Wine Tasting room for groups up to 14.

We Deliver!
Call 612-871-2500 for details.

SENIORS: 10% Off Non-sale wine,
beer & liquor everyday!*

Ask about our
Wedding & Party Discounts.

Fast, quality service & free parking.

Family owned & operated
for over 30 years.

LOWRY LIQUORS

1922 Hennepin Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55403
lhlwine.com

Visit our sister store:

lakeside
WINE
+SPIRITS

1916 W. Wayzata Blvd
Long Lake, MN 55356
Lakesidewineandspirits.com



ROBICHAUD & ALCANTARA

Lawyers that fight for you!

Attorneys Proudly Serving the LGBTQ Community and all Allies.

AUTO & WORK INJURIES • FAMILY LAW • IMMIGRATION

RA Law
RobichaudLaw.com
612.333.3343
CALL US FOR A FREE CONSULTATION

THE REMODELER YOU CAN TRUST



Additions & Dormers / Kitchens & Bathrooms / Custom Cabinetry
Whole House Renovation / Porches & Sun-Rooms / Finished Basements

4330 Nicollet Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55409
612.821.1100 / 651.690.3442 MN LIC #BC378021
www.houseliftinc.com

 **House Lift
REMODELER**

Eat the Fair



Minnesota summers begin at Pride, but they end at the State Fair. Both are among the best in the nation and for good reason. The Minnesota State Fair is 12 days of unbridled feasting, fun, and fellowship. Anything you could ever possibly want to put in your mouth is available deep fried and on a stick, barbecued, stuffed with cheese, or topped with bacon. It's serious business. Seriously delicious business.

When the fair announces its list of new foods each year, I take note. And plot my course. My first trip (and each successive trip, for that matter) revolves around food. Sure, I always include some of the classics, (cheese curds, Pronto Pup, roasted sweet corn), but the real excitement comes in tasting something brand new. Will it be a winner? Will it be a dud? Will I be able to eat enough before my partner inhales the rest?

To that end, I've already begun strategizing my first visit of 2016. Here's a list of the top ten tastes I'm most looking forward to.

1. Candied Bacon BLT at Blue Barn

Ever foodie-forward taste innovators, Blue Plate's Blue Barn consistently delivers some of the most uniquely delicious Fair fare. This year's Candied Bacon BLT is no different. I had the pleasure of sampling this yummy sammy stuffed with their signature thick-cut candied bacon. It's topped with rancher's slaw and a green tomato spread any self-respecting southerner would fight their mama for. The sweet egg bun made my mouth water.

2. Spicy Pork Bowl at Blue Barn

Another Blue Plate special puts any other so-called rice bowl on notice. Sorry, Chipotle, but you'll want to take notes. Blue Barn's mix of adobo pulled pork atop rice, beans, greens, salsa, and deep fried onions was better than any I've ever inhaled.

TWO HAPPY HOURS 7 DAYS A WEEK!

3:00-6:00pm & 9:00pm-1:00am

\$1 Off All Bottled Beer & Cocktails

\$5 Off All Buckets O' Beer

\$2 Off All Burgers After 9:00pm

\$3 Martinis

During Happy Hour on Monday & Tuesdays!

Not applicable during Xcel Energy Center events



BEST BURGER in TOWN!

CLOSE TO THE XCEL ENERGY CENTER & THE ORDWAY | WWW.BURGERMOES.COM
242 WEST 7TH STREET | SAINT PAUL, MN 55102 | 651.222.3100



BLUESTEM

— BAR —



CRAFT
COCKTAILS

20 LOCAL
BEERS ON TAP

FULL-SERVICE
ALL DAY

28th & Lyndale - Inside French Meadow - Minneapolis
BLUESTEMBARMINNEAPOLIS.COM

A TIME TO TOAST!

Haskell's Proudly Supports
The Twin Cities GLBT Community.



Haskell's can help with your wedding receptions, bridal showers, summer parties or any celebration where wine, beer and spirits will be served.



Bloomington • Chanhassen • Excelsior • Faribault • Maple Grove • Minneapolis • Minnetonka
Plymouth • Saint Paul • Stillwater • White Bear Lake • Woodbury • haskells.com



RED COW

·fine burgers, beer & wine·

FINE BURGERS DESERVE CRAFT BEER
36 ROTATING DRAFTS | 17 GOURMET BURGERS



THREE GREAT
NEIGHBORHOODS

ST PAUL Cathedral Hill 393 Selby | 651.789.0545
MINNEAPOLIS Fulton 3624 W 50th St | 612.767.4411
MINNEAPOLIS N Loop 208 1st Ave N | 612.238.0050



3. Candied Bacon Donut Sliders at Minnesota Wine Country

Blue Barn isn't the only one with candied bacon this year. Minnesota Wine Country is serving up glazed donut holes stuffed with slices of the addictive crunchy pork candy, topped with a choco-red wine ganache. Oink. The calories are reduced because they use donut holes, right?

4. Deep Fried Nacho Supreme at Texas Steak Out

When in doubt, deep fry it. That's exactly what Texas Steak Out is doing to one of my favorite Tex-Mex delicacies: the nacho supreme. Deep fry pepper jack cheese cubes coated in seasoned tortilla chips and nacho cheese. As if that wasn't sinful enough, top the molten crispy cubes of dairy goodness with taco meat, guac, more cheese, sour cream, and jalapeños. Give these people a medal.

5. Burnt Butt Ends at RC's BBQ

As a former Texan, the only thing I miss more than Tex-Mex is meat. Specifically, barbecue meat. And RC's BBQ has taken a classic cut of the barbecue world and made it a star. The beloved burnt ends (premium cuts of tender, crispy, dry-rubbed pork) are a traditional favorite, served here with onions and jalapeños.

6. Deep Fried Grilled Cheese Bites at O'Gara's

You can always count on O'Gara's to offer up something uniquely yummy at the Fair. This year, they've beerbattered our childhood, deep frying creamy, salty cheddar cheese cubes. The Bloody Mary mix marinara reminds us that you're never too old to savor simple.

7. SPAM® Sushi at Sushi Rolls

SPAM® is a perennial Fair favorite, but this year Sushi Rolls takes our fondness for the hometown potted meat product to a whole new level.

Grilled SPAM® is rolled in nori with sticky sushi rice, fried egg, and eye-watering wasabi. Hawaiians aren't the only ones who love the best thing to come out of Austin, Minnesota.

8. Bang Bang Fresh Chicken Tenders at LuLu's Public House

Typically, I'm not a huge fan of Fair foods that I can get my hands on any other day of the week. Typically, I'm breaking that rule this year in order to get my hands on something I love almost as much as a burger: chicken tenders. Not those frozen, blendered chicken parts. LuLu's Public House is offering fresh fried crispy chicken tenders, paired with a sweet and tangy chili sauce. Cluck yeah.

9. Carpe Diem at The Rabbit Hole

As an exchange student in Japan, one of my favorite street foods was the taiyaki. This warm, pillowy, fish-shaped cross between a waffle cone and a donut is typically stuffed with sweet treats like custard or fruit. The Rabbit Hole brings this international treat sensation to the Fair this year filled with balsamic-roasted strawberry compote, topped with vanilla ice cream. If you love it, simply, don't be afraid to yell, "Oysheeee!"

10. Macaroni & Cheese Curds at Oodles of Noodles

How can you possibly make macaroni and cheese better? How about macaroni and cheese CURDS!? Oodles of Noodles knows that you can never have enough cheese in your life. They've taken a sinfully rich and creamy macaroni and cheese and topped it with squeaky fresh cheese curds. It's like the food version of *Inception*. ■

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR: AUG. 25–SEPT. 5, 2016
1265 Snelling Ave., St. Paul
www.mnstatefair.org



HAPPY HOUR DRINK SPECIALS
MON-FRI 230-6PM,
SUN: 9PM - CLOSE
LATE NIGHT FOOD SPECIALS:
MON - SAT: 10PM-MIDNIGHT

ICEHOUSE

MPLS. MINN.
2528 NICOLLET AVE SOUTH • MINNEAPOLIS
612.276.6523

OPEN FOR LUNCH, BRUNCH, DINNER AND LATE NIGHT.
MUSIC 7 DAYS/WEEK

COME ENJOY OUR DOG FRIENDLY PATIO!



Jakeeno's
Pizza & Pasta
*** SINCE 1975 ***

**Pizza & Pasta Good for All Seasons
+ 2 HAPPY HOURS**
3555 Chicago Ave, S. • Mpls • 612.825.6827



**SUNDAY - THURSDAY 4:00-9PM
FRIDAY - SATURDAY 4:00-10PM**
5001 34TH AVE. S • MPLS, MN 55417
ALVENTORESTAURANT.COM
612-724-3009

**4 COURSE TASTING MENU
DAILY FOR \$25 PER PERSON**

**HAPPY HOUR 4:00-6:00PM
MONDAY - FRIDAY**
Includes \$2 Off Apps, \$3 Off Pizzas,
\$2 Off Pints, \$8 Specialty Cocktails,
1/2 Price Wine Bottles

**HALF PRICE BOTTLES OF WINE
ALL NIGHT SUNDAY AND MONDAY**

CATERING BY AL VENTO
Have your next event at al Vento or bring
Italian to the table at your next Event.
For pricing or booking contact
Katie@alventorestaurant.com

Free scoop of home made gelato for birthday

HAPPY PRIDE WEEK
• EST. 1997 •

McCoy's

PUBLIC HOUSE



**AMERICAN COMFORT FOOD • CRAFT BEERS
GREAT COCKTAILS • FABULOUS WINE LIST**



**LOCATED AT EXCELSIOR & GRAND
3801 GRAND WAY • ST. LOUIS PARK
952.224.9494 • MCCOYSMN.COM**

SIGNATURE SMALL PLATES

Dip in for Happy Hour!

Now with small plates, tap beer & reception platters in our renovated bar complete with shiny new tables for cheese & chocolate after work or a full fondue excursion! Casual, comfortable and way cool!
Available in the bar area only.



HONEY ALMOND BRIE
MEDITERRANEAN FLATBREAD
SAVORY SATAY SKEWERS

HAPPY HOUR MON-FRI, 4-6
1/2 off selected beer, wine and cocktails
MINNEAPOLIS • (612) 338-9900
MELTINGPOT.COM

The Melting Pot
a fondue restaurant

The LOWRY The FREEHOUSE grove land tap \$5 HIGHLAND ALE Longfellow grill Edinburg grill

blue PLATE

EVERYONE WELCOME



www.blueplateco.com



Paint Your Wagon. Photo by Tracy Martin

PAINT YOUR WAGON

Aug. 9–21

Ordway Center, 345 Washington St., St. Paul

651-224-4222

www.ordway.org

The Ordway is teaming up with Seattle's 5th Avenue Theatre for a major revival of *Paint Your Wagon*. Odds are that this will be quite a show since the two theaters previously teamed up to give us the best *Cabaret* production ever in the Twin Cities. Director David Armstrong relates, "*Paint Your Wagon* is quite unusual in that it is, at the same time, both iconic and rarely seen. The title and songs are very well known, but the show is seldom produced. Hopefully, this new version will change that. I was hired to direct a production of *Paint Your Wagon* in Sacramento nearly 20 years ago. In spite of the weak storyline, the audience had very strong responses to the show — they loved being in the world of the gold rush and, of course, the score had a great impact. I thought at the time that if someone could successfully create a new book for the show it could join the ranks of Lerner and Loewe's other great classic musicals (*My Fair Lady*, *Camelot*). About eight years ago we began discussions with the Lerner and Loewe estates to make that happen. We commissioned Jon Marans to create a new story that would more

accurately reflect the multicultural true history of the gold rush. All along we tried to the best of our limited psychic abilities to figure out what Lerner and Loewe might do if they were writing the show for a modern audience."

Armstrong adds, "We have incorporated the majority of the original Broadway score into our new version, plus two songs that were created for the film version. And, we have thrilling new orchestrations and musical arrangements that bring a 'new-grass' feel to the songs which, of course, were originally inspired by western, folk and roots music of various kinds. However, to ensure that we can still deliver on the Aaron Copeland-esque aspects of the score, the orchestra includes french horns."

DISGRACED

Through Aug. 28

Guthrie Theater

818 S 2nd St., Minneapolis

612-377-2224

www.guthrietheater.org

The Guthrie has landed the rights for the area premiere of one of the biggest plays of the decade. Dramaturg Carla Steen comments: "As the most produced play in the country this season, *Disgraced* is almost a phenomenon. And it's easy to see why: it's very well crafted, entertaining, topical and timely, and very human. Ayad Akhtar's play is populated by a very specific group of people, overachievers living on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, who reflect diverse cultural or religious backgrounds. They almost personify the American dream fulfilled, and together they form a successful vision of a melting pot or mosaic America. But achieving or maintaining the American dream is easier for some people than for others, and *Disgraced* offers a look at how it can get derailed, in this case for Amir, a Muslim American lawyer. Despite the humor in the play, Akhtar doesn't make it easy for the audience to witness Amir's crash.

It's almost a variation on Arthur Miller's 'tragedy of the common man' for a new generation."

Steen adds, "Director Marcela Lorca is approaching the play with a great deal of empathy, recognizing that everyone has faults and failings, and the more empathy we can bring to looking at someone else's experience, the more likely we're going to find ways to solve some of the biggest problems facing us as a society. Akhtar is a truly exciting voice in the American theater, and over the next few years I look forward to seeing how his work evolves and how he continues to put hard questions to us about the world we live in."

LADY AND THE TRUMP

Through Nov. 5

Brave New Workshop

824 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis

612-332-6620

www.bravenewworkshop.com

The current company collaboration by the region's premier comedy theater is a dynamically clever revue that spoofs the election season. Brave New Workshop not only mines the humor, obvious and not so obvious, pertaining to Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, it also casts a giddy eye on the mis-steps of Ted Cruz and one literal misstep by Carly Fiorina. Not to mention what was the roller coaster ride of the Bernie Sanders campaign that challenged the Democratic Party establishment.

Five actors form a tight ensemble that flickers from scene to scene to scene. All are uproariously daffy but most notable is Ryan Nelson as "The Donald." Nelson gave us a solid Trump in last year's BNW revue, *The Trump Who Stole Christmas*, but he didn't go for broke. This time around, Nelson gets the nuance, inflections, and irreverent spirit of the controversial GOP candidate with bombast and breeziness. A unique and winning combination. It's an uncannily observed performance that might possibly lead to a new career as stock Trump character, should the GOP win the White

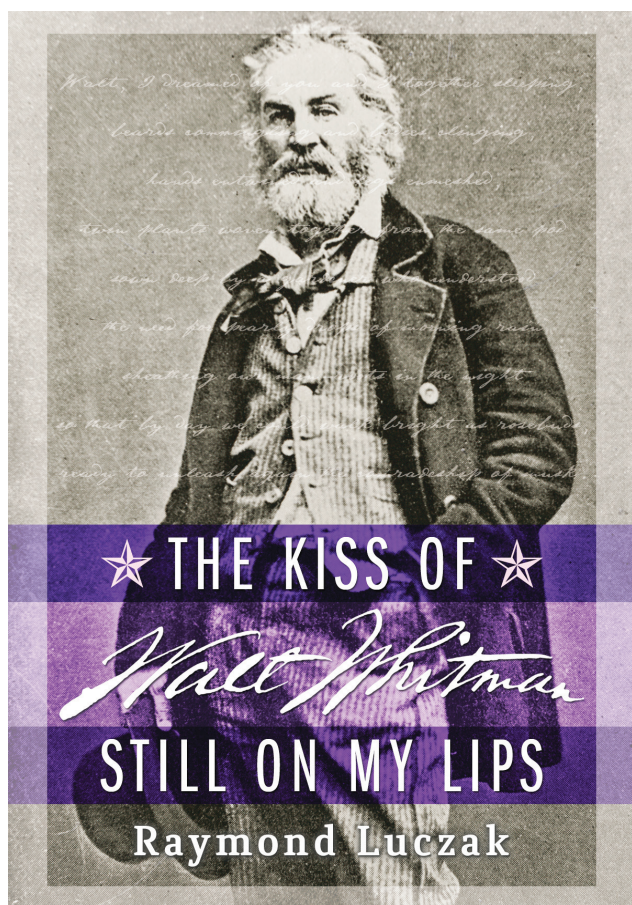
House this fall.

That said, *Lady and the Trump* is surprisingly nonpartisan. Clinton's email scandal and ego are brightly satirized by Lauren Anderson and a blond-wigged Taj Ruler as a Hillary alter-ego trapped behind glass. This idea is beguilingly reminiscent of Lewis Carroll and marks one of those splendid BNW moments where raucousness transcends to the level of true Theater of the Absurd. Anderson's Hillary becomes a Queen of Hearts of sorts who gloats over a defeated Bernie, played to clown-show effect by Ruler.

In another delicious nod to the absurd, Nelson also shines as Jeb Bush, played as a man invisible to all around him until certain parts where he speaks and everyone around him freaks out. Ruler and Tom Reed whack out as new age-y female and male buddies who spin into cyber rages against one another as a Hillary and a Bernie backer. Tech director Matthew Vichlach has shrewdly overseen some stunning footage of Cruz forcing himself on a girl in order to kiss her at a campaign rally. There is also a wonderfully strange film section of Andy Kraft as a shape-shifting being who ultimately snaps into regretful consciousness when he realizes that he has been a tool to discombobulate the GOP. Vibrant music direction by Josie Just. Inspired stage direction by Caleb McEwen.

THE KISS OF WALT WHITMAN STILL ON MY LIPS

www.squaresandrebels.com



The Kiss of Walt Whitman Still on My Lips. Photo courtesy of Squares and Rebels



Lady And The Trump. Photo by Dani Werner

To read Raymond Luczak's poetry volume, *The Kiss Of Walt Whitman Still On My Lips*, is to not only vibrate to the echoes of the 19th century, but to also feel the vibes of gay writers of the sexual revolution era such as novelist John Rechy and poet James White. Known recently for his editorship of *A Queer Disability Anthology*, Luczak has a heightened sensitivity to the problem of marginalization in our current day, so this volume has a unique resonance across the ages.

That uniqueness reflects Luczak's core connection with how men loved one another in the 1800s in contrast to how men have come to love, and at times exploit, one another over the past half century. "Rings of kisses and gropes were sacrosanct / behind the shuttered eyes of storefronts." Much of the volume delves into that long-past time with references to Oscar Wilde as well. Contemporary Minneapolis is referenced, too: "I dream of catching you Walt on the smoking patio / behind the Minneapolis Eagle. You'd wear a t-shirt, / jeans and sandals; / hold

up a pint of lager in your hand. / Kiss me in front of everyone." The poem goes on to plumb the bittersweetness of unrequited idealized desire.

This points to the deep concern Luczak has about gay alienation, something that legislation cannot solve. Being an older gay man in the age of the internet, or even a younger one who does not (or cannot) adhere to male beauty myths, are sublimely related. "Still no emails, no texts, no calls from my gardener: / he must have gone up north for the aurora borealis, / the darkness paint-sprayed with green and glow. / The skies are full of stars, but I can't find his eyes. / I am an unmapped constellation."

Luczak acutely recognizes how age and beauty segregate gay and bisexual men in our time and how the brazen ubiquity of beautiful, often airbrushed, male bodies has fostered a dreadful sense of unattainability and wretched inadequacy. He writes with grim submission "Sex has lost its mysticism, / its wanton mysteries exposed like a magician's secrets, / How the hell can I compete with the body I have?" ■

MINNESOTA FRINGE FESTIVAL

OFFER INSIGHTS INTO GENDER, IDENTITY, AND SAME-SEX LOVE

The Minnesota Fringe Festival is packed with an abundance of stage presentations lasting no more than an hour at various local venues. As usual, many shows look into queer-ness, sexuality, gender, and identity. Fringe is a portal into present currents in performance and social attitudes. Plays, solo pieces, and dance and movement works are among the range of offerings. There are scores of works to choose from, so if you cast your net wide you are apt to find some very engaging and powerful experiences. Here are some offerings from local artists and artists from both coasts that *Lavender* folk may find especially interesting

ONE MAN'S JOURNEY THROUGH THE MIDDLE AGES

Boston-based performance artist Judah Leblang takes a humorous look at middle-aged gay life from growing up in Cleveland in the 1960s and '70s to exploring Provincetown during carnival week. Based on his memoir, *Finding My Place*, Leblang reflects on hearing loss after having been a teacher of deaf children and working as a sign language interpreter. He describes himself as gay, single, and hard of hearing. The show has sold out in Boston and Cambridge, Massachusetts and has gotten rave reviews from the mainstream press, the *Jewish Advocate*, and various GLBT publications around the nation.

THE CLOCK THAT FELL OFF THE MANTLE

Teenager Taylor Fischer is producing this new work with the Morally Ambiguous Theatre. Fischer says, "The show is a collaborative piece that is set in a different world where people are born with timers on their wrist that state the amount of time left in their life. It surrounds a group of people struggling to capture time and how time impacts a person's life. It is also written, directed, and choreographed by people of the LGBT community and it



Assemble. Photo by José Castaño Villalobos

features four LGBT actors. However, the content of the shows does not surround LGBT themes." Artists include Melody Bowers, Iris Errickson, Holo Lue Choy, Emma Walker, and Nathaniel Davis.

ASSEMBLE

The newly formed Minneapolis Ballet Dancers (MBD) features eight choreographers, many with international roots, who create ballet and contemporary dance. Wesley Rocha, who hails from Brazil, will offer two works. Tokyo's Shohei Iwahma and Venezuela's Maylu Pena will present pieces; Pena's *Danzon* deals with issues between two women. Dancer Kat Hesterberg relates, "*Danzon* reflects the love and jealousy and resentment of the female main character for her beloved partner (Hesterberg) who happens to be

truly unaware of her own feelings. Filled with overwhelming mixed feelings, the beloved partner is seduced by a handsome man (Ben Olsen) who she ends up marrying. The female main character (Laura Janson) is pushed by the crowd to fight for her love." Hesterberg and Annie Nimmo also choreograph pieces of their own.

BALL: A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO MY LOST TESTICLE

Fringe and Illusion Theater hit-makers Max Wojtanowicz and Nicki Swoboda delighted us in recent years with their *Fruit Fly* musical, which gave us an endearing relationship between a gay male and a straight female. Wojtanowicz tells us of their newest project: "My director Nikki Soboda encouraged me to apply for this year's festival with this story before I even started my nine weeks of chemotherapy. At first I had every hesitation you can dream up: It's too soon, it's too silly, no one wants to hear this story, it's too exploitative, it's insulting to the legions of people who cope with cancer every day. But now I'm so glad to be working on it because it's helping me to process what was a very scary few months by finding the humor and the light in it. I think it's a story for anyone who's gone through an illness like this, or anyone who knows anyone who has. I hope the takeaway is that you can't stop life from throwing crazy obstacles at you, but you can find creative ways to face those obstacles. For some people, that might be by going to therapy or cooking or painting or going on a long vacation. For me, it's telling my story to an audience."

TERROR ON THE HIGH SEAS

Californian Les Kuykendall returns with another zany look at gay life. He continues the story of his relationship with Mike, the guy who forgot to tell his parents Les was black before he introduced him to them in 2006. It is 10 years later and Les and Mike are still

ARE YOU A MAN WHO HAS HAIR LOSS?

IF YOU ARE A MAN, 18 to 41 YEARS OF AGE AND HAVE EXPERIENCED MALE PATTERN HAIR LOSS, YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR A CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDY.

THE MINNESOTA CLINICAL STUDY CENTER IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO PARTICIPATE IN A CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDY THAT WILL USE AN INVESTIGATIONAL ORAL MEDICATION FOR MALE PATTERN HAIR LOSS.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THIS RESEARCH STUDY, PLEASE CALL 763-502-2941.



Steven Kempers, M.D.
Minnesota Clinical Study Center
7205 University Ave. NE • Fridley, MN 55432

What's Your Plan?



Roya Moltaji, CFP®, ChFC®, CASL™, ADPA™, CAP®
Senior Financial Planner, Special Needs Financial Planner
Financial Services Representative

2013 Quorum Business Leader of the Year
301 Carlson Parkway, Suite 300
Minnetonka, MN 55305
rmoltaji@financialguide.com



Call Roya today at
952-769-2126
WWW.ROYAMOLTAJI.COM



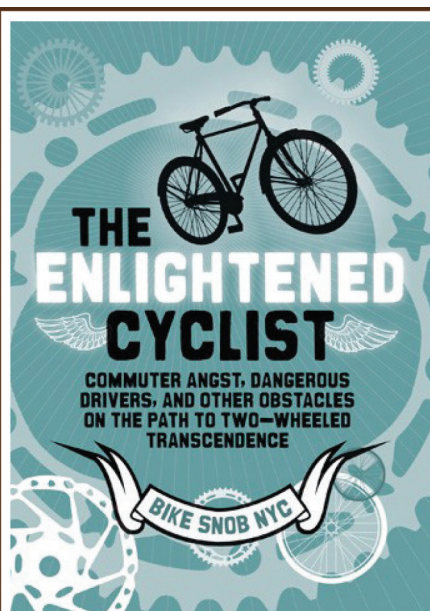
CONNECTED
insurance

Ron Strychar | President

HORIZON AGENCY, LLC | Business & Personal Insurance Solutions
952.914.7185 | ron@horizonagency.com | connectedinsure.com



Shared Wisdom. Powerful Results.



unique. funky. affordable.

THE
ELECTRIC
fetus

Franklin + 4th
612.870.9300
www.efetus.com

Aging isn't easy.
Caregiving doesn't need
to be hard.

If a loved one is getting older and needs care, Right at Home offers services for almost any situation. Our in-home care lets loved ones enjoy life in the comfort of a familiar environment. And it lets you concentrate on caring instead of caregiving. Give us a call and let us develop a Custom Care Plan for your loved one today.



952.854.6122
www.RAH-tc.net



QUORUM
2012 Business of the Year

2012 & 2013 STAR TRIBUNE'S
Top 100 Workplaces
#1 Mid-sized Business



Bob

Paul



**FOXY FINERY
FOR YOUR
HOME.**

*Interior design services
and retail boutique*



803 Bielenberg Drive
Suite 101
Woodbury, MN 55125

651-219-4597

www.merrimentadornments.com

together. Mike's family is going on a cruise to Alaska and since Les is now a part of the family they expect him to join them. This means that Les is going to be stuck with his partner's white conservative family on a boat in the middle of the Alaskan wilderness.

Kuykendall shares, "My straight friends have been telling me horror stories for years about their mother-in-law or father-in-law and before same-sex marriage was legal I would laugh and think to myself, 'I am glad I never have to experience that.' Well the joke was on me because now I do. This trip was definitely a learning experience for everyone involved. Even though his family said they accepted me as their son's spouse on the surface, there were still some ideas about gays and lesbians that they needed to change and some lessons that they needed to learn."

BECOMING INGA

Colleen Kruse's transformational solo piece plunges into the sensual world of healing and eroticism. When a woman's world comes crashing in she takes an unusual job that puts her in touch with men who have significant issues with women and sexuality. All of the scenes are fascinating but the segment where

Inga helps guide a cisgender man into the transgender core within his/her true self is deeply moving. It is one of the clearest illuminations of what it is like for a person to become aware of their trans identity that you may ever see. A courageous work that delves into the mystery of sexuality and gender with profound wisdom, but without the jargon.

OF SOMETHING HUMAN

Choreographer Tamara Ober has wowed the Fringe before and her new work *Of Something Human* is as sure a Fringe bet as any. It also includes the talent of gay dancer Timmy Wagner. Ober says, "Gender and archetypes play a significant role in this work. I chose the dancers intentionally as their natural humanity and performance persona ride a great spectrum between diverse qualities: strength and gentleness, beauty and ferocity. I believe these diverse qualities/voices/perspectives as they intermingle in the world at large create grounds for the kinds of chaos and violence we are seeing expressed today. In this work, the dancers enact personal and world patterns as a microcosm/macrocosm of both historical and current violent events. They eventually find a way to string together these



Becoming Inga. Photo by Dennis Driscoll

dynamics and elevate beyond the traditionally traumatized roles of gender and identity. They generate a tough-love playfulness while holding the integrity of their own voices and dynamics, and they come to find challenging, but genuine, human intimacy." ■

MINNESOTA FRINGE FESTIVAL

Various Local Venues
Aug. 4-14
www.fringe festival.org



Beautifully Simple.
Elegantly Celebrated.



Jessie@GaleMansion.com
Www.GaleMansion.Com
612.870.1662
photo by Noah Wolf



Visit BigGayNews.com for your weekday newscast featuring Local, National and International GLBT News.

Each newscast is accessible via computer download, smartphone, or iPod.



With more than 80,000 followers on Twitter, BigGayNews.com is your number one GLBT news source.

#takepride in Your Family
#takepride in Your Home
Free Exterior Design Consultation



TRINITY
EXTERIORS, INC.

952/920-9520 trinityexteriorsinc.com

jewelry
home
chocolate



**ELIZABETH
GARVIN
DESIGN**

Shops at
Excelsior & Grand
3826 Grand Way
St. Louis Park
952.922.8364

max's

www.StyleByMax.com



the
fit tourist

GUIDED BICYCLE AND WALKING
TOURS IN MINNEAPOLIS - EXPLORE
OUR BEAUTIFUL CITY.

(507) 533-5348 • WWW.THEFITTOURIST.COM



**DELLWOOD
COUNTRY CLUB**

Dellwood Country Club Welcomes All

You and your family will enjoy Dellwood's facilities including; an amazing golf course, pool / lazy river complex, fitness center, tennis courts, banquet hall, outdoor dining and meeting rooms.

Learn more about booking events or becoming a member, reach out to our
Member Relations Director at (651) 289-2388.

LAVENDER[®] LINK

**ENTER TO WIN A
\$100 TARGET Gift Card**
every LAVENDER Magazine
edition by signing up for
LAVENDER Link,
our weekly newsletter.



LAVENDER Link features the latest links
to our current issue, online exclusives,
contests and upcoming events.

90's EXPLOSION
featuring
ENVOGUE **naughty by NATURE**



TONE-LOC

AUGUST 12 • 8 PM

ON SALE NOW!

Get tickets at mysticlake.com

Mystic LAKE[®]

OWNED & OPERATED BY THE SHAKOPEE MDEWAKANTON SIOUX COMMUNITY

© 2016 SMSC Gaming Enterprise



• WEDDING STYLE •

By Mike Marcotte • Photos by Mike Marcotte



WEDDING ATTIRE

ADVICE FROM AN INSIDER

From a timeline on ordering suits to how to avoid looking like Tia and Tamara circa 1995.

Whether you're attending the wedding of your boyfriend's freshman year roommate or tying the knot yourself, we all share one goal at a ceremony: to look nothing less than fabulous. But when you're with someone of the same sex, what can you do to make sure you complement each other without looking like twins, say Tia and Tamara from *Sister, Sister*?

That's where an expert comes in. As owner of Heimie's Haberdashery, Anthony Andler has helped men (and women, more on that in a bit) look sharp for over three decades. His shop, located in downtown St. Paul, has a 95-year track record helping customers feel good. And no matter if you're standing at the altar or are at a wedding just to tear up the dance floor, Anthony's pieces of advice are good for everyone.

Know what you want to wear, but....

For engaged couples, Andler says, "You can't walk into a store with the thought, 'This is *exactly* what we want.'" In fact, he says that's the biggest mistake they make when it comes to the process of picking out what they wear. There isn't much a haberdasher or retail expert can do to make you look identical to Justin Timberlake sporting a tuxedo. Because our bodies are all different, it's hard to recreate looks ripped out of magazines. "We try to shape the concepts to fit the mold." Instead, Anthony recommends that you come in feeling playful and willing to take a risk.

And if you are engaged, it's an absolute must to sit down with the business who will outfit you for your big day. Book a consultation and feel com-

LIVE FIERCELY

Have a passion for style? Create your own signature look
with the Twin Cities' largest selection of fine jewelry.

Shane Co.[®]

Your friend in the jewelry business.[™]

SHANECO.COM | MINNETONKA • WOODBURY





portable with the company you will work with. For the best results, come in with a sense of direction and let your emotions take over when trying on clothes. Bring tissues, you may need them.

So what are the rules about matching my date?

How coordinated should you be with your partner? Do you need to wear the same suit and have matching burnt orange bow ties? It's a common question the Heimie's pros hear, and the simple answer is no. Andler recommends that you follow your own style instead. "Style is defined by the person, fashion is defined by the industry." The staff at Heimie's focuses on your personality and incorporates your complexion to create the perfect look. If your suit is navy blue and your partner goes with grey, a good clothing expert will find a secondary color that will complement both which can be showcased on socks, flowers, and other pieces, meaning you shouldn't have to worry about being focused on color.

And don't forget about those accessories.

Accessories are the easiest way to showcase your style. Earrings, cufflinks, pocket squares, and even the type of dress shirt can portray your personality. When planning what you'll wear, Andler suggests that you divide your body into three style zones (head/neck, torso, hips/legs) and start your look at the top. But don't stop there. "Think about how you scan someone when you meet him. He might have a well-fitted suit but his shoes are a wreck and his sock has a hole. It begins to make an effect on the whole outfit."

No matter what you wear, make sure it fits the venue.

"Always dress your best, and never dress down," Andler tells Lavender. If you're attending a wedding as a guest, look up photos of the venue and adhere to any attire suggestions on invites. An outdoor wedding requires a vastly different look than a black tie affair. Every reception and ceremony site portrays a different vibe.

Plan ahead.

Because the process of ordering custom clothing is so detail-oriented, Andler says attire for your big day should be planned six months to a year in advance, although some couples are able to select and pick up items within three months. Planning out will help avoid stress. And if there's anything

you would like to have customized, allow for extra time. Attire is one thing where you don't want to cut corners. "How we dress and how we feel create the memories," Andler says.

Although Heimie's caters to the male body, they're inclusive to all in the GLBT community. "Women who shop Heimie's are having a hard time finding hand-made goods. They come to us because they want a certain look of a classic silhouette with a tailored look," Andler says. He advises female customers looking to purchase men's clothing to be cautious and aware that a man's suit is constructed differently than a women's made garment.

Heimie's Haberdashery, located one block from Rice Park in downtown St. Paul, opened in 1921. In addition to tailored suits, shirts, and accessories, Heimie's features a barber shop offering razor shaves and haircuts. They also sell a wide array of cigars. A recent remodel expanded their tailoring service shop and created a bachelor party room where a groom and his party can prepare for the big day together. ■

HEIMIE'S HABERDASHERY

Historic Hamm Building, 400 St. Peter St., St. Paul
www.heimies.com
651-224-2354

ADDITIONAL CLOTHING ADVICE FROM ANTHONY ANDLER OF HEIMIE'S HABERDASHERY:

- Every man should have black, navy blue, and grey suits. And make sure they fit. Single-breasted, two-button suits with side vents are the most common.
- Consider adding a three-piece garment to your closet. "It's very formal and is associated with the next level of dress, the tuxedo," Andler says. Three-piece silhouettes are coming back into pop culture thanks to television shows like *Downton Abbey*. They are a reflection of the golden era of dress in the 1930s and 1940s.
- Trim is in, so make sure your clothes are tailored. The Euro look is trending, meaning your suit will have clean, lean lines. The color of choice for tailored pieces are brighter blues.

WORK FOR US!



**EXPERIENCED
ADVERTISING
ACCOUNT
EXECUTIVE
WANTED**

Work as an
Advertising
Account
Executive for
Lavender Media.

Great
Commission!
Fun working
environment!

LAVENDER

Send your cover letter
and resume to:
barry@lavendermagazine.com



Your Floral Design Specialists!

*Special Events • Weddings • Funerals • Deliveries
Wire Service Available!*

WWW.BWFLORAL.COM

689 WINNETKA AVE. N. • GOLDEN VALLEY, MN 55427
763.593.1777 • TOLL FREE: 888.893.7950 • INFO@BWFLORAL.COM



Uniquely Yours
custom designed jewelry

"Voted Best Place to Buy Jewelry"
- City Pages Best Of 2016

Unique engagement and wedding rings, and more!
Over 20 years creating beautiful jewelry with passion.
Over 100 five star reviews and 100% guarantee.
READ OUR REVIEWS! We serve every couple with joy! You're next...

4305 Upton Avenue South • Minneapolis, MN 55410 • 612-746-0508

www.uniquelyyourscustomjewelry.com

GLBT News & Lifestyle at your fingertips?

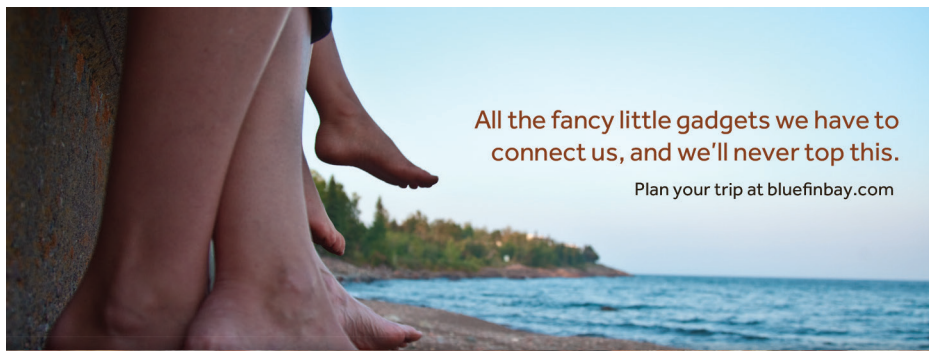
APPsolutely!



Available on the
App Store



Your big day is here! Allow us to share the best with your guests.
651-690-0075 • justtruffles.com



All the fancy little gadgets we have to
connect us, and we'll never top this.

Plan your trip at bluefinbay.com

Bluefin Bay FAMILY OF RESORTS

Bluefin Bay | Surfside | Temperance Landing
On the shores of Lake Superior in Tofte, Minnesota



• WEDDING STYLE •

By Mike Marcotte

FAVORITE THINGS: WEDDING STYLE

Lavender asked Mike Marcotte to share what he wears to a wedding along with a gift idea he loves to give newlyweds. Bonus for you: keep reading for *Lavender* exclusive discounts on these picks!

Photo courtesy of SwitchWood



Magnetic Wood Bow Tie from SwitchWood

Without a doubt, my go-to accessory is the bow tie. I have about 30. And whether I'm at Mall of America or on Hennepin Avenue in downtown Minneapolis, I get the most compliments when sporting a magnetic, wood bow tie from SwitchWood. A magnet sits on the interior of the knot (which is fabric-covered plastic) and all of their grains of wood are interchangeable with all of their fabrics, meaning you create dozens of styles. An elastic clip-on band makes it perfect for most neck sizes, and best of all, there's no need to fuss about perfecting a bow tie knot. I recommend spending the extra \$25 to get a box set, which includes two different grains of wood for the one band. They can engrave those bow ties if you're looking for a unique wedding attendant gift. SwitchWood, based in Virginia, also sells wood cufflinks to help polish your look. Trust me, the people you meet will be floored when you detach a wooden wing and hand it to them.

Lavender exclusive: save 10 percent on SwitchWood's website when using promo code LAVENDER at checkout (deal expires August 31, 2016). www.switchwood.com

Shirt and Accessories from Heimie's Haberdashery

Once you step inside Heimie's Haberdashery in downtown St. Paul, your definition of quality will change. Everything in the men's clothing shop is hand-selected, and now it is the only place I will buy a suit. I recommend stopping by if you're looking to add an investment piece to your closet like a suit, sweater, or dress shirt. The extra money you put in up front will help your garments last longer. I also use Heimie's as a spot to pick up bow ties, which come from designers here in Minne-

sota and around the world. The accessories don't end there; I have an awesome lapel pin from Heimie's too. It's a store to just walk in and look around and see what inspires you. Heimie's has great neighbors; it's inside the Hamm Building, home to Meritage and newcomer Vieux Carré, which is a hidden gem.

Lavender exclusive: save 20 percent off accessories at Heimie's Haberdashery through August 31, 2016 when you mention *Lavender*.

www.heimies.com



Photo by Mike Marcotte



Photo by Rachel Resch Photography

Wine Tumblers from Kaye & Co Designs, available at Flaunt Accessories

The Broadway Building in northeast Minneapolis is home to Spyhouse Coffee, a local office for BuzzFeed, and Flaunt Accessories, an adorable boutique featuring women's clothing and accessories, along with plenty of home decor and gift ideas. Flaunt, which started as a fashion truck (think food truck without the deep fryer), now carries items from 20 designers, which are selected by owner Melissa Hardin. There's a lot to fall in love with at Flaunt, but what stole my heart are Minnesota-inspired wine tumblers from Kaye & Co Designs. They can be customized or you can pick up their regular set which is perfect for someone who is Minnesota-obsessed. And the price point is perfect if you're searching for a wedding gift; a set of four is around \$30.

Lavender exclusive: save 15 percent on Kaye & Co Designs wine tumblers at Flaunt Accessories through August 31, 2016 when you mention *Lavender*. www.flautaccessories.com ■

MANUFACTURERS LIQUIDATION SALE, NOTHING OVER \$2999

**RETAIL VALUES \$8000,
\$9000 OR MORE,
ALL \$2999!**



EVERYTHING PRICED TO SELL, NOTHING HELD BACK. MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF EXCLUSIVE DESIGNS FROM NY MANUFACTURER!

ONLY AT

HOFF
Diamonds
HOFFDIAMONDS.COM

MAPLEWOOD MALL
651-773-3464
BURNSVILLE CENTER
952-204-9349

36

**MONTHS TO PAY
NO MONEY DOWN
NO INTEREST!**

*to qualified buyers



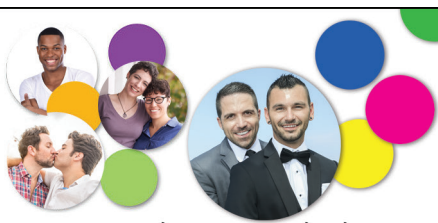
**W.A
FROST
AND
COMPANY**

**Our Private Dining Rooms
are perfect for your next event.**

Our unique old-world atmosphere for groups up to 48.
Feel the warmth of Frost.

374 Selby Avenue, Saint Paul 651-224-5715
www.wafrost.com

Find us on facebook & twitter  



photofetti®

**Turn your photos
into CONFETTI!**

1" double-sided photo confetti
mixed with your choice of
accent colors. Order online
and upload your images.
Easy. Unique. Fun.

Pridefetti - Weddingfetti - Businessfetti
Or any other milestone you're
celebrating.
What's Yourfetti?

**UP TO
10 PHOTOS
PER PACK!**

**(866) 496-3168
PHOTOFETTI.COM**

*Let Your
Future Begin
at
Barkers Island Inn*



BARKERS
WATERFRONT
GRILLE

(715) 392-7152 Reservations
(715) 395-7810 Weddings/Events

**BARKERS
ISLAND INN**
Resort & Conference Center
Pool - Lounge - Restaurant

300 Marina Drive | Superior, WI 54880 | www.barkersislandinn.com



• WEDDING STYLE •
By Shane Lueck • Photos by Hubert Bonnet

Tawnya (Sweetpea) Konobeck



BUCK THE TREND: ALTERNATIVE BRIDAL HAIR

Hair up? Hair down? Dyed? Highlights? Natural?

Deciding on bridal hairstyles for the nuptials brings a surprising amount of stress for many brides. Therefore, it goes without saying that finding the right stylist can be critical to ensuring you love the final result. Add in the aspect of belonging to the rainbow community, and suddenly the idea of needing a safe space comes into play.

Sica Dawn, stylist and owner of the Fox Den Salon, says that people travel to her Uptown location from as far away as North Dakota in the quest for a safe space. "Although that is really a huge compliment, something has to change," she exclaims. "There is a need for better visibility for safe spaces for grooming, an increase in mutually accepted language and vocabulary in the industry, and hopefully, by discussing it in an easy-

going way that is accessible to all, free of the barriers that keep so many in our community from being able to actualize their true selves!"

Passionate about helping everyone find the style to match their true selves, Dawn is constantly looking for ways to make her salon more inclusive of identities. "One thing that we have realized in our quest for inclusion is that no one is really out there helping to answer many of the questions that those in transition have, firsthand, about how to realize the physical transformation that they are looking to achieve," she shares. "Whether it be assisting those that are early in their transition to find safe spaces and allies in the beauty and grooming industry, or assisting them with what language to use in achieving their goals for realizing their true identity (even a ton of cis-gendered folks don't know the

Queenie Von Curves



Chelsea Lawrence



difference between a bob and a pixie, in all fairness), we want to help!”

Fox Den Salon has been around since 2007 and has been working with the community ever since. The smaller five-chair shop has a drive to do great, interesting hair, as well as being focused on the community and its needs. According to Dawn, “Being in the area that we are, it is really important for us to be versatile enough to execute fashion-forward trends and alternative styles, as well as please our conservative and middle-of-the-road clients, while being aware of, and sensitive to, the needs of all of our existing and potential clients.”

She cites the mission of the salon as not only a place to go to get one’s hair done, but also a place to gather, feel safe, and to provide resources for “the various communities that we are a part of.” Outwardly, Fox Den Salon participates in numerous causes and events to benefit the GLBT community, and, internally, Dawn and her staff have worked hard to be an inclusive, safe space for all people, regardless of their identity, including regular staff meetings involving inclusive language, appropriate pronoun usage discussions, the ungendering of their service language, and educating themselves about various community resources to connect others to in the event that they are unaware of them.

One way in which Dawn and her team of stylists serve the community is creating wedding styles that every bride will love, from the traditional to more modern, alternative designs. Dawn sees Minnesota as a unique space to live, with so many things to enjoy and experience, and the variety in wedding venues reflects that notion. Whether you’re someone that enjoys the metropolitan nightlife, the scenic countryside, or something you really can’t find anywhere else, like saying your vows amid the world-famous art at the Walker Art Center or overlooking one of the thousands of lakes that we are known for, local couples are at a distinct advantage to find that special niche out there that really shows the world who they are on their special day. We have everything from historic mansions to wineries to large, posh event centers and twinkle-light-

filled barns that can host any kind of wedding a couple may want to have.

There are so many wonderful and inspiring local resources to make the day a once-in-a-lifetime event that really represents the individuals. And your hair can reflect that individuality; there is no need to fit neatly inside a cookie-cutter bridal box if you don’t want to.

“One of the top trends that I have seen recently is the inclination for brides to just be themselves,” Dawn says. “Gone are the days of dreading to grow out the hair in order to achieve the idyllic up-do, French-twist, or chignon. Here (hopefully to stay!) are the days of brides showing off their individuality, and actually looking like themselves. They’re sporting shaved sides and designs, short bobs, and pops of the vivid colors that they enjoy wearing in their daily wear. Brides are really utilizing their own personalities in a way we haven’t seen before.”

Wedding hair has always had its own personality, but with the help of social media and all of the resources out there, Dawn says her brides are able to better match the hair that they want to their own personal style. Just taking a glance at bridal magazines or Pinterest, brides can see that big trends in modern bridal hair cross the genres, from vintage, classic style inspiration, big volume, and soft and sweet romantic hair, to embracing natural textures and curls and featuring textures in the style by using braiding and twisting.

“So many styles right now involve the illusive ‘up but down... down but up’ description,” Dawn shares. “It’s where our brides want to have the look of soft down hair, but count on their coif staying controlled through all of the vows, hugs, and dancing that they’re going to be doing on the big day.”

According to Dawn, the one constant across all of the styles right now are the accessories. Jazzing up even the simplest “undone up-do” are ribbons, hair necklaces, tiaras, hair tattoos, vintage hair combs, head bands, flower crowns and, yes, coming down the wedding runways this season, even butterfly clips. These accessories aren’t always taking the place of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34 ➔

Dahlia Dulce



Eryn Lansverk



the traditional veil, either. Often they are in addition to the veil, or attached post-veil for the reception to add a little extra something to their style.

Some brides picture their wedding day all their lives, while others thought the day would never happen for them. Whatever the case may be, Dawn and her team love talking with brides about what their vision for themselves entails. She says determining what a bride is going to look like on their wedding day involves having open and direct communication with the bride-to-be about who they are, what they want, and what is possible.

"Talking to a professional that will be honest, but impartial, about how something more alternative or trendy, versus a look that is more classic, will work in conjunction with the bride's personal style and the styling of the wedding itself, is a really important step for a bride," she says. "Many of us have worked for years as stylists, talking not just to brides on their big day, but maintaining relationships with them afterwards. That gives us insight and the hindsight to know what styles have worked well, and what trends didn't age as well with time, as the brides might have hoped. That experience helps identify the styles and trends that are going to be the best moving forward for our new brides."

While there are very few things Dawn would try to talk a bride out of, she says there are always things about each style that she would want them to consider before committing to a look. "The secret about wedding stylists is that we want your day to go as seamlessly as possible and be something you can look back on happily for a long time to come," she shares. "We want to give you the curls that will last in your hair type the longest, the volume that fits your face shape, the bangs that won't go crazy when you dance, and the color that will be an iconic representation of who you are in that moment. Sometimes some things don't fit every criteria for longevity, but a good stylist isn't going to talk you 'out' of a certain style, as much as we will talk you 'in' to the other more viable option for your situation."

Dawn's first advice is that in bridal hair, as in life, surround yourself

with people that make you feel good, but aren't afraid to be honest. The best way to do that is to use your community: if you have a go-to stylist, salon, or hair-savvy friend, ask them if they do hair, or know of a stylist that they think would be a good fit for you.

"Not all bridal stylists are created equal, and there is someone out there for every bride," she says. "It is about finding a stylist that understands who you are and your vision for the day, not about you fitting into their vision of what a bride should be. Find someone you connect with, then move forward from there, not just someone whose schedule matches yours."

There are countless stylists out there that are well-versed in traditional and non-traditional styling, and many of them are happy to open up early or travel to accommodate for bridal schedules and wedding parties. Dawn is adamant: there is no reason that anyone has to settle for a stylist that they don't absolutely love on their big day. According to Dawn, it's all about doing the research while also following your instincts.

"Does this stylist have a portfolio to look at, or seem comfortable with doing what you ask?" she says. "Do they have insights to add to the conversation, or are they overly agreeable and promise the moon without knowing how to build a rocket ship? Many stylists want to make their clients happy, bolstering the motto 'Fake it till you make it' with a smile on our faces, but sometimes that zealotry to satisfy our customers doesn't always translate to the ability to execute the long-lasting style that the bride needs."

Above all, Dawn says to make sure that you feel good about the person that you are working with, and verify that they are prepared and capable of meeting all of your needs before you rule out your other options. "Even for a non-traditional bride, the day of the wedding is a crummy time to have to concede your vision to meet the reality of a stylist that can't help you achieve it." ■

Dresses provided by The White Room (www.thewhiteroommpls.com); hair by Sica Dawn and makeup by Tray Styles of Fox Den Salon (www.foxdensalon.com).



Traditional isn't always old-fashioned.

Pilgrim Lutheran Church



A HOME FOR HUNGRY MINDS AND SOULS
LITURGICALLY RICH AND CREATIVE
KNOWN FOR CELTIC & NORDIC CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP
COMMITTED TO FULL
LGBTQ PARTICIPATION



PilgrimStPaul.org

Saint Clair & Prior in Saint Paul's
Macalester Groveland neighborhood



Now booking
2018 & 2017 Weddings!




SCHEHERAZADE JEWELERS

Galleria • 69th & France • Edina • 952.926.2455 • sjewelers.com

george sawyer

Made in Minnesota
with the finest materials
from around the world



Katrina Hannemann



Katrina Hannemann

EHINGER SCHWARZ 1876



**BRING IN THIS AD FOR \$50 OFF OF
YOUR PURCHASE OF \$250 OR MORE**

Interchangeable fine jewelry in gold,
silver, stainless steel, gemstones
and pearls lets you be your own
designer. From a ring to a necklace
to a bracelet, combined with center-
pieces and discs, the possibilities
are endless.



1041 Grand Ave, St. Paul
Phone: 651.330.0545
www.es1876stpaul.com



Emma Freeman



D'AMICO CATERING

Imaginative Cuisine Impeccable Service
Intriguing Venues Impressed Guests

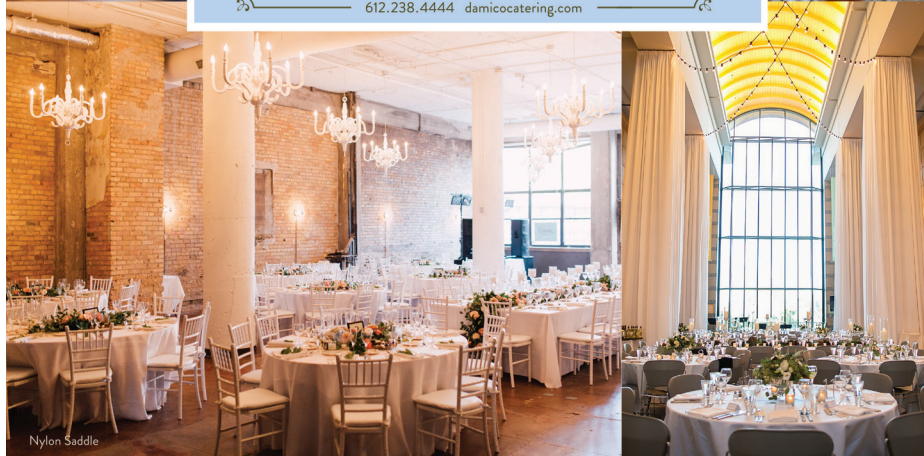
Calhoun Beach Club	International Market Square	Minneapolis Institute of Art
Mill City Museum	McNamara Alumni Center	Minnesota History Center
Sovereign Estate Winery	Metropolitan Ballroom and Clubroom	Loring Social
Pique Travel Design		The Museum of Russian Art

"Best Caterer" MINNESOTA BRIDE	"Best Caterer" MINNESOTA MEETINGS AND EVENTS	"Best Venue" MINNESOTA BRIDE
-----------------------------------	---	---------------------------------

612.238.4444 damicocatering.com



Katrina Hannemann



Nylon Saddle



• WEDDING STYLE •

By Shane Lueck



Photo courtesy of Bigstock.com/ Rustle

WEDDING GIFT ETIQUETTE: HOW TO PROPERLY SHOW YOU CARE

When it comes to people you care about, it's a given that — any time money enters the equation — things might start to get a little sticky, especially when it comes to the act of giving gifts for momentous occasions like weddings. Most of us are thrilled to be giving our just-married friends and family presents to start their lives together, but it can be confusing to the nth degree to pinpoint exact wedding gift etiquette. Figuring out how much to spend, what type of gift to give, and even when to deliver a gift is tricky, particularly if your generosity exceeds your budget.

Luckily, there are etiquette experts ready and willing to answer any question that might arise. For nearly a century, one name has been trusted above all others when it comes to proper decorum: Emily Post. While Emily may not be doling out the advice anymore, The Emily Post Institute is a family business that spans five generations, maintaining and evolving the standards of etiquette that Emily Post established with her seminal book *Etiquette* in 1922. According to the Posts, though times have changed, the principles of good manners remain constant.

From a primary office in Burlington, Vermont, The Emily Post Institute maintains a 25-book collection; publishes columns in *Good Housekeeping*, *The New York Times*, *USA Weekend*, and the *Boston Globe*;

conducts seminars and trainings; and partners with businesses and non-profit organizations to bring etiquette and manners to a wide audience. There are currently two generations and nine direct descendants and their immediate family involved with The Emily Post Institute, one of whom is Lizzie Post, the great-great-granddaughter of Emily Post and a co-author of numerous etiquette books. She is also the co-host of *Awesome Etiquette*, a podcast from American Public Media.

The etiquette of gift-giving is incredibly nuanced, Lizzie says. And wedding gifts are a different animal because, with weddings, there is a wonderful balance between unspoken tradition and the need for very explicit, detailed information. Yet, wedding invitations are the only kind that carry an unspoken obligation to give a gift, regardless of whether or not a guest can attend.

Many people stick to the registry, which is a simple and easy way to decide on a gift. But Lizzie notices that registries are getting a bit more interesting. For instance, one friend of hers registered for a leg of prosciutto. "That's just not what you would typically see on a registry," she laughs. "But it's because they love prosciutto and now they're having a big prosciutto party one night. It's that kind of thing where you might



RESTORE. REVIVE. REFUEL.



AVEDA
THE ART AND SCIENCE OF PURE ESSENCE AND CLARITY

The experience brings you back.

Services Provided

- Precision Haircuts
- Signature Shaves
- Color Treatments
- Gift Cards Available

The West End
1683 West End Blvd.
Minneapolis, MN 55416
(763) 546-1140

Minnetonka Crossing
6001 Shady Oak Rd. STE 160
Minnetonka, MN 55343
(952) 935-0505

Woodbury City Center
1960 Donegal Dr.
Woodbury, MN 55125
(651) 348-6676

Online booking click: ROOSTERSMGC.COM/LOCATIONS

facebook.com/RoostersMensGroomingCenter

THE classic AMERICAN BARBERSHOP



MINNETONKA
1001 Plymouth Rd

LAKE CALHOUN
3060 Excelsior Blvd

ST. PAUL
1575 Selby Ave

MAPLE GROVE
12201 Elm Creek Blvd N

HENNEPIN
222 Hennepin Ave

EDINA
7401 France Ave S



Purchasing
Whole Trade®
Guarantee products
supports fair wages
and ethical trade
around the world.



St. Louis Park
is just minutes
from Downtown
and Uptown
Minneapolis!

There's a space reserved just for you in St. Louis Park.

St. Louis Park has a long history of welcoming diversity. Just like our community, our private event facilities are just as unique. We have the space for your wedding, rehearsal dinner and bachelor or bachelorette party. We can also help you with hotel room blocks whether your event is held in St. Louis Park or nearby. Great hotels, hip restaurants and unique spaces welcome you and your guests with open arms. **Contact us for complimentary event assistance and for a free St. Louis Park event space guide.**



Discover
St. Louis Park
minnesota

Comfortably Close.

www.discoverstlouispark.com

info@discoverstlouispark.com
(952) 426-4047



Photo: lauren b. photography



see when people are more set up with household items, they might be more willing to register for something that will allow them an experience or it's just something a little bit more different."

While there are some unique things found on registries, Lizzie says no longer are people registering for things that they want but can't afford (like a new computer or plastic surgery). Instead, people are bringing it more into fun, light things that brings with it a certain experience, like a large hunk of prosciutto. But it is also always okay to veer off the registry.

"If you don't see anything on the registry, or maybe the registry has kind of been picked through and you don't really want to send them a tea towel and a random fork, it is perfectly okay for you to go off the registry," Lizzie says, sharing the two main things to keep in mind when choosing a wedding gift. "First of all, always stick within your budget. Always, always, always. You're never paying for a plate. You're never obligated to get them something on the same level that they bought you. Never, ever, ever. Always stick within your budget. And then the other one is that it's really up to you what you decide to give."

When it comes to sticking to a budget, that number could look pretty small. For a twentysomething, for example, someone who isn't necessarily well-established yet finds their friends walking down the aisle, it can be tough to find an appropriate gift that stays within budget. That's when creativity and sentiment come into play.

"For years in my twenties, what I always bought was, I think it's Pottery Barn, silver picture frames that you can go get engraved," Lizzie says, citing the total cost for frame and engraving in her area as being less than \$20. "Look for things like a picture frame with the date of the wedding on it. The number of friends I have that said, 'We didn't get anything like that and it was so perfect because we had a place to put our wedding photo then.' I think those are sometimes the overlooked gifts that actually wind up being really useful to the couple or really cherished. Never think, oh, a picture frame is going to be boring. This is a day that they're marking and they're going to want to display that in some way in their home to remind them of it."

She says the simple things can be incredibly great gifts. Another cherished idea she has done before as a sort of DIY gift is a recipe book. Call up the families and get some of their favorite recipes and start a recipe book for them. Also think about what the couple loves to do together and see if there something really simple that would fit the bill. For example, maybe you know that they love cooking so a gift idea could be some special spices and then put them into some beautiful jars.

But the most basic of all etiquette when deciding on a gift, especially if you're going off registry, is to have the couple's taste in mind. Looking at the registry helps give an idea of what colors they are gravitating toward, for example, and that might help if you decide to go off registry. "But the biggest thing is you want to be able to envision these people using the item," Lizzie says. "You want to feel like you're getting them something not just that you love and adore, but that they would love and adore. Your coffee maker is great, but if they don't drink coffee, well..."

"Usually you are pretty safe with anything in the entertaining department," she continues. "A beautiful salad bowl, a nice set of serving utensils, a cool vase, things like that. They're things that as they entertain, as they get together with people throughout their lives, it's 'Oh, I'm so glad I had that vase there.' The kind of stuff that you collect over the years, but you're really grateful when you actually need it and have it."

But a word of caution to going off-registry: don't put too much of yourself into the gift. Lizzie laughs thinking of some bad gift choices she's heard of. "Like in *Wedding Crashers* when it's like a book on kama sutra from Crazy Aunt Whomever. I think you want to make sure it's really in line with the couple's taste."

Every now and again, Lizzie says the Emily Post Institute will get a

bride who writes in saying she received something really inappropriate from someone and it was embarrassing to open it in front of other people. A classic example is lingerie at a bridal shower. "Some people aren't comfortable having that part of their lives exposed," Lizzie says. "You really want to think about the couple. It doesn't have to be sex, it could be other stuff. Just because a couple lives in Colorado, you don't want to get them smoking stuff. Just because you know that they're going to get married, you don't want to get them sex stuff. You really want to be careful not to overdo it, you really want to think about time and place and who else is going to be around when the gift gets opened."

Ultimately, keep it simple, especially for the pre-wedding parties. With engagement parties, bridal showers, and weddings, it's easy to end up over budget. But Lizzie says to keep things small before the actual wedding, and in some cases no gift is necessary. Engagement parties, for example, tend to be regional in terms of expectations. Lizzie suggests calling the host ahead of time to find out if gifts are expected since there is no standard. In the South, for example, it's more common and in the Northeast it's less common to bring a gift to an engagement party.

"But truthfully I tend to think of the wedding gift as a big gift and the other parties are kind of smaller gifts," Lizzie confesses. "So for one of my friend's weddings, we did this big absolutely gorgeous plate that everyone gave their signatures to the engraver for, and the engraver put them on the plate. And then for her bridal shower, she and her husband are both the zodiac sign of Cancer, which is the crab. And they were getting married in a place where crab was kind of the main thing, so I got them two cute little crab hooks. Little hooks to put your jacket or your purse on; not a big deal item. And then for an engagement party I just did some really simple napkin rings. I tend to think of the pre-parties as the smaller gifts, cute little things, simple little things. And then the wedding I do a bigger gift for them, usually. But again, always within my budget, none of these were expensive items."

Of course, in this day and age, cash is the ultimate currency. More and more people are giving money or gift cards in lieu of a physical gift, which Lizzie says is perfectly fine. In fact, the couple might actually prefer it because if they did a destination wedding or if they're moving right after the wedding, it can be really nice to have those gift cards or cash to use at the store as opposed to having to deal with physical presents when they don't yet have a place to put it or when they are going to have to travel and bring it home. But even cash and gift cards come with certain etiquette standards. According to Lizzie, the best thing to do if you do cash, check, or a gift card is to do it in a greeting card and write a thoughtful message with it.

Lizzie also suggests checks instead of cash, if possible. "It allows you to see when it's processed," she says. "If you're mailing it to them, you know it actually got to them if they deposited it into their bank account. Whereas if that money hasn't cleared, then you might check up on it and say, 'We just want to make sure that you received the check that we sent you as a wedding gift.' It just allows you to keep tabs on it a little bit, whereas when you send cash or a gift card it's harder."

Ultimately, timeliness is your best friend. There is a rumor that anytime within a year of the wedding is a proper timeframe to send a gift to the couple, but Lizzie debunks that myth. "Try to get the gift to the couple within three months of the wedding," she says. "I would also say try not to stress. I get into the place of trying to find a gift that's so cool and so meaningful that I am then eight months later sending them a gift. And I think what you really want to do is get them something from the registry or get them something simple that you know they will enjoy. Don't stress too much about it because that's when it becomes too much and you lose the sweet simplicity of 'I just want you to have something to commemorate your marriage with from me.' That should be the sentiment." ■



RE/MAX
Results

moving to
Minnesota

BETH RICHARDSON
651-646-2100

Real Estate Made Real Simple
bethrichardson@movingtominnnesota.com
movingtominnnesota.com



DOUBLETREE
BY HILTON™

BLOOMINGTON – MINNEAPOLIS SOUTH

Call the **Doubletree by Hilton**
Bloomington – Minneapolis South
for your **WEDDING CELEBRATION!**

We are delighted to be your partner in
planning from the beginning to the end.

- Rehearsal Dinners
- Ceremonies
- Indoor & Outdoor Event Space
- Wedding Receptions
- Cocktail Receptions

Contact us at 952-893-8430

7800 Normandale Boulevard • Bloomington, MN 55439

I Do.....
Make a lasting memory of your Wedding on the Scenic
St. Croix River or at the Historic Afton House Inn



WWW.STCROIXRIVERCRUISES.COM • WWW.AFTONHOUSEINN.COM • 651-436-8883

THE INTERCONTINENTAL SAINT PAUL RIVERFRONT



For more information:
intercontinental.com/stpaul
sales@intercontinentalstp.com
651 605 0163



INTERCONTINENTAL
SAINT PAUL RIVERFRONT



MAKE YOUR OWN WEDDING WINE



Our wines are a great choice for you & your friends to make and enjoy. Choose from one
of our standard varieties we have in stock, or if you're looking for something more
unique we can make a special order.

Contact us to make your own wine, beer or to learn more about hosting an event.

651.228.1355 or email andy@vinepark.com

1254 West 7th Street St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Your Complete Home Team



Kay T. Johnson
612.802.8261

Amy Ruzick
651.492.1044

Keith Taylor
952.829.1584



Host it @ SpringHouse

A venue that's just right for you

3 unique event spaces • reception hall • meeting rooms

weddings • birthdays • retirement parties
anniversaries • retreats • and more

612.353.6292 • events_SHMC@fccmpls.org
610 W 28th Street • Minneapolis, MN 55408

SpringHouse
Ministry Center
springhousemn.org

HOW LONG
DO WE
LEAVE THE
FM ON?
all day.

100.7 FM + 104.5 FM

RADIO K

770 AM 100.7 & 104.5 FM

★ Real College Radio ★

LAKE ELMO Inn

CATERING & EVENT CENTER

"World Class Dining Close to Home"



Comprehensive Planning Services
Award Winning Cuisine | Outdoor Ceremonies
Receptions | Rehearsal Dinners

3712 Layton Ave N | Lake Elmo, MN | 651.779.5994 | LakeElmoInn.com

MORE THAN
MUSIC



89.3
the current®

THECURRENT.ORG



Matthew Pagel
Income Tax Professional

Declaration of royal treatment ~
"I pledge to provide clients with realistic answers to their tax situation and to give them the peace of mind that their tax returns are accurate and deliver the best possible outcome."



4500 Park Glen Road
Suite 100
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
p 612-822-7177 f 612-822-2163

RORTax.com

Serving the GLBT Community
(and civilized straights) Since 1991

Integrity Experience Results

JERRY A. BURG ATTORNEY AT LAW

Over 20 Years Experience in:
Family Law | Criminal Defense
Employment Law

3009 Holmes Ave. S. • Minneapolis

(612) 822-0865

www.jerryaburg.com



Michael McGee

I AM QUORUM

Business Name: Michael McGee, Realtor with Coldwell Banker Burnet

How many years in business: 25

What are you drinking at happy hour? Crown and Seven

What 3 non-work items are on your desk? A coffee mug and a globe pen set. Everything else is work related!

What's the one thing you can't live without? My phone!

What's the one item you always have in your refrigerator? Milk

Why Quorum? As a realtor, I need to get myself in front of as many people as possible. As a charter member, I have always found that Quorum gives me an opportunity to do just that. The networking that goes on within this organization is incredible!



Visit **TWINCITIESQUORUM.COM** and
find out what Quorum can do for you.



• WEDDING STYLE •

By Shane Lueck

SAY IT WITH A CARD



Wedding cards have come a long way, especially for the rainbow community. Gone are the days of having to cross out and edit “Mr. & Mrs.” to more accurately reflect the same-sex couple. Walking into big-box retailers now, wedding guests can find an array of cards showcasing various styles, sentiments, and gender identities. Papyrus, one of the most recognized greeting card companies across the country, has lead the charge for inclusivity with their wedding cards, offering same-sex cards long before marriage equality passed through the Supreme Court. And some of the most creative and vibrant cards come from Emily McDowell Studio, who has made it their mission to help people connect when they don’t know what to say.

PAPYRUS

Same-sex wedding cards from Papyrus hit stores in the fall of 2013, almost two years before marriage equality swept the nation. The small test assortment of six designs featured various techniques, including flat printing, letterpress, and handmade (which includes traditional add-ons like bow ties and tiaras). “There was immediate interest and the collection expanded again in 2014 and with each passing year, we’re updating and adding to the assortment,” says Dominique Schurman, Papyrus’ CEO.

Recently Papyrus made GLBT additions to a few holidays like Valentine’s Day and Christmas with subtle design additions and edits. “Although, not specifically calling out a GLBT-theme, the design is creatively relatable to all customers,” Schurman says. “We’re committed to expanding our same-sex card offering, whether it’s for a wedding, a holi-

day, or an everyday occasion.”

The company’s most recent addition is in digital custom-printing wedding invitations. Although any of the digital wedding invitations are customizable for all marriages, Papyrus began integrating same-sex couple names into the breadth of their offerings in hopes of being part of everyone’s wedding celebration, whether it’s helping to create the perfect wedding invitations or a greeting card to celebrate the next big event.

“Wedding themes will always be represented by traditional design formats that speak to how special the occasion is,” Schurman says. “What we have noticed is a shift in demand for casual, organic, and personal representations. We see personalization becoming a more important need than traditional wedding designs that the market has always had represented. Trend has become very relative in the wedding market.”

ROSEDALE CHEVROLET WANTS TO BUY YOUR CAR!

3 EASY STEPS:

1. Go to Kelly Blue Book (KBB.com) to determine your vehicle's value



2. Get your "No Bull" price on any new or used vehicle at



www.rosedalechev.com

3. Receive 120% up to \$2,000 OVER KBB when you sell OR trade your vehicle at ROSEDALE Chevrolet.



PLUS YOU CAN CHOOSE THE REWARD THAT BEST WORKS FOR YOU.



WWW.ROSEDALECHEV.COM

NO TALL VEHICLES QUALIFY FOR REWARDS PROGRAM. VALUE BASED ON KBB FAIR TRADE VALUE. DEDUCT AND ADDITIONAL 20 PER MILE OVER 10K MILES PER MODEL YR. SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS. ROSEDALECHEV.COM/HARDWORKREWARDS. THIS PROMOTION IS NOT PRODUCED, SPONSORED, OR EXECUTED BY BEST BUY. BEST BUY, THE BEST BUY LOGO AND THE TAG DESIGN ARE TRADEMARKS OF BEST BUY AND ITS AFFILIATED COMPANIES. © 2016 BEST BUY. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

LAVENDER



Like us

facebook.com/LavenderMagazine



Follow us on
Twitter!



LAVENDER
[@lavmag](https://twitter.com/lavmag)

It's not about the size, it's how you use it.

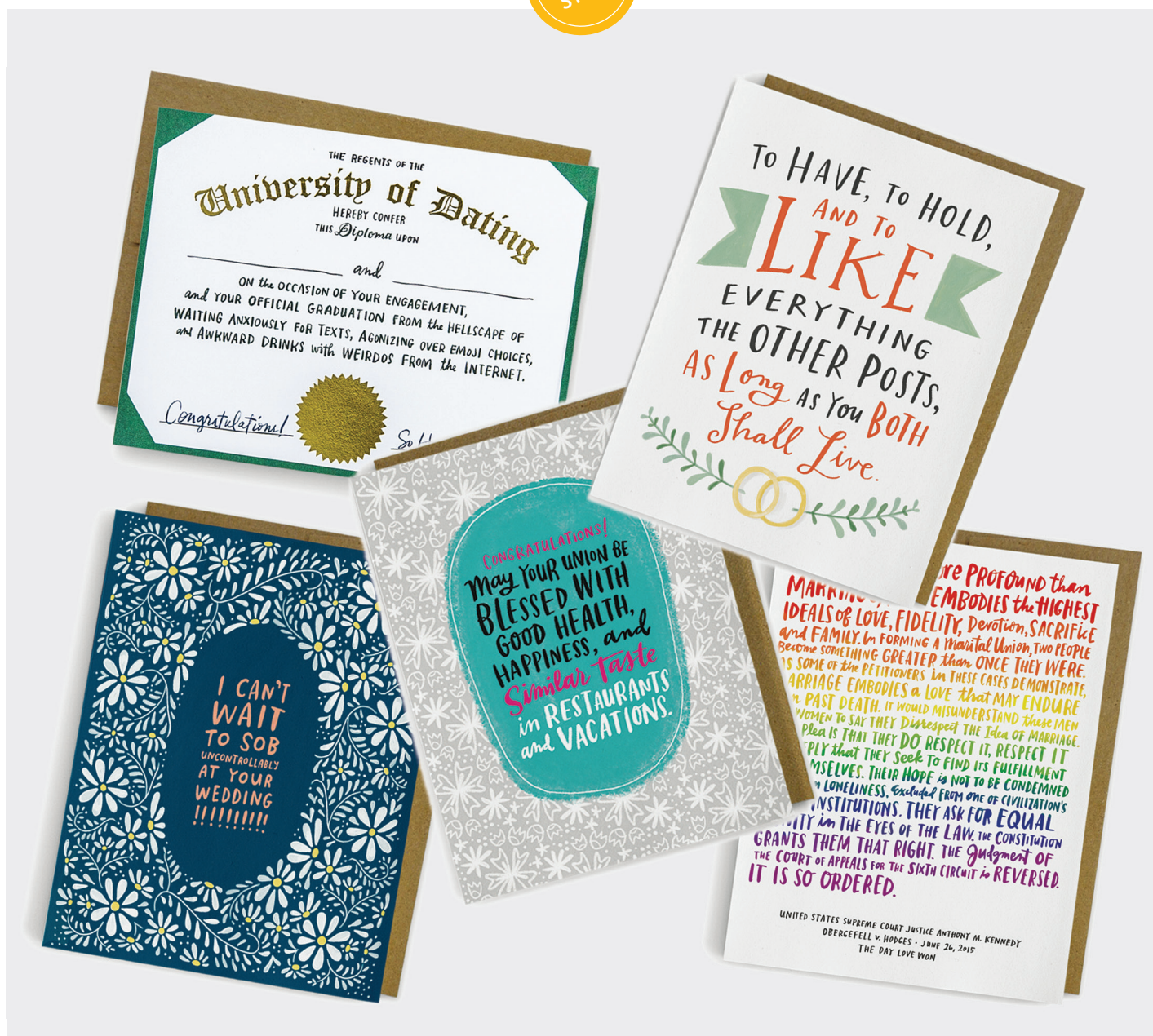
The All New 2016 FIAT 500X AWD Crossover

Now it's as easy to travel through ALL 4 seasons as it is to purchase your next car from your friends at Luther FIAT of Minneapolis. 500X starting under \$20,000.



FIAT of Minneapolis
1820 QUENTIN AVE | ST. LOUIS PARK, MN 55416 | 952-367-4400
www.fiatminneapolis.com





EMILY MCDOWELL STUDIO

"We make cards for the relationships people actually have, not the ones we wish we had, and all of my work is based on universal truths about being human," says writer, illustrator, and founder Emily McDowell. Her business began as an Etsy shop on the side of her regular job in advertising.

She remembers, "I just sold illustrated prints until January 2013, when I made our first card, designed as a Valentine for the person you're kind of dating, but not really (so it would be weird to get them a normal card, but it would also be weird to not get them anything)." Nothing like it existed at the time, it went viral online, and McDowell used that as the jumping off point to start a company, launching to wholesale in May 2013. Now her cards can be found in nearly 1800 stores or directly online at www.emilymcdowell.com.

One wedding card includes an excerpt from John Roberts' marriage

equality decision, but otherwise her goal is for all of the cards to apply to all kinds of weddings. Which means none of the wedding cards feature "Mr. & Mrs." gender-based imagery, traditional engagement rings, or anything that would prevent them from being used for a GLBT wedding. "They're more about observations on marriage and relationships that are universally applicable," she says. Shoppers will notice some non-traditional Mother's and Father's Day cards (i.e. 'Happy Father's Day, Mom' and 'This Mother's Day, let's celebrate the amazing job you did at basically raising yourself.'), and a lot of nontraditional Valentine cards, based on uncommon insights into relationships.

But don't expect to find anything too trendy — everything with Emily McDowell Studio is one-of-a-kind. "I don't really follow trends with my work," she says. "Some of it's funny, some is more sentimental, but it all falls under the same umbrella of human observations." ■

Exceptional Catering Memorable Events



Venues Include:

- Midpointe Event Center
- Landmark Center
- Keller Golf Course
- Como Park Zoo & Conservatory
- Edinburgh USA
- Minnesota Zoo
- Science Museum of Minnesota
- Green Haven Golf Course
- Lake Waconia Event Center
- Brooklyn Park Community Center
- Plymouth Creek

...Or Your Own Location!



Edinburgh USA
763.315.8503 ~ lancercatering.com



Science Museum of Minnesota
651.221.2550 ~ smm.org/rentals



Como Park Zoo & Conservatory
651.487.8282 ~ comozooconservatory.org



Lake Waconia Event Center
763.315.8516 ~ lancercatering.com



Keller Golf Course and Banquet Center
651.766.4176 ~ lancercatering.com



Green Haven Golf Course
763.576.2968 ~ lancercatering.com

Uncompromising Excellence

lancercatering.com | 763.315.8521

LANCER
Catering

The Surprising Art of Leslie J. Anderson

Leslie J. Anderson is a classically trained artist. She also is a bootblack who has been involved in the leather community for over 25 years. She has combined these two passions into what is perhaps an artistic first: using a surprising art medium, boot and shoe polish, to create dazzling works of art.

I caught up with Anderson during her recent “Naked Leather” exhibit in the Guest Artist Gallery at the Leather Archives & Museum in Chicago, where she was selling and signing prints and limited-edition T-shirts featuring some of her artworks.

Anderson’s artistic credentials, all from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, include a BA in history and art, a BFA in photography and printmaking and a master’s degree in education and art therapy. Her art training led to work in museums planning and preparing exhibits.

She began her bootblacking activities at an early age when she started shining her mother’s shoes. Later, in the early 1990s, Anderson honed her bootblacking skills with the help of a mentor she found when she started attending New Mexico’s leather bars. In 1999 she had the honor of becoming the first International Ms Bootblack. Today she describes herself in her artist’s statement as an “artist, activist, educator, and master bootblack.”

As far as Anderson knows, no one has ever before created art using shoe or boot polish, but it seems like a natural medium for her. Many examples of her art are inspired by leather sex: illustrations of leather jackets and boots and of people in various bondage situations, for which boot polish seems a very appropriate art medium. But Anderson also uses shoe and boot polish for non-leather-related art, including expressive and soulful drawings of turtles, lions, dogs, elephants, gorillas, and other wildlife.

In her artist’s statement, Anderson says she feels the combination of her love of both bootblacking and art “cre-



ates the perfect storm. By interacting directly with the polish on various surfaces, it becomes a playful medium that allows her to create images in the same manner as bootblacking. Dirty and tactile.”

Anderson’s art ranges from small sketches to large pieces. She is a fast and prolific artist who works on as many as three pieces at a time, arranging them in her hallway and adding to them as she passes.

While photographs or other reproductions of Anderson’s art are amazing, seeing the original artworks themselves reveals deeper levels of meaning and artistic significance. Looking at an original piece of Anderson’s art, you can see varying levels of sheen imparted by the polish, depending on how Anderson has applied it. You can even faintly smell the polish, which adds a new level of sensory stimulation to the art-viewing experience.

Anderson’s knowledge of both art and leather also have combined to make her an expert leather preservation and conservation specialist. She often works as a volunteer at the Leather Archives & Museum, caring for leathers in their collection. Many of these leathers belonged to members of the leather community who are no longer alive, but Anderson says she still feels their presence in and through the leathers. “It’s intense!”

At the end of this summer, Anderson told me she will be exhibiting her wildlife art in Denver. She also said her future plans include creating some art pieces for next year’s CLAW (Cleveland Leather Annual Weekend) as a fundraiser for the Leather Archives & Museum.

Anderson sums up her art by saying, “Who knew shoe polish could do so much? It’s amazing!” ■

See more examples of Anderson’s art or buy limited-edition T-shirts and art prints at www.instagram.com/thebootblackdaddy.



Exclusively Serving the LGBT Community
 Located in the Minneapolis Metro area of Minnesota, we specialize in:

- Drug & Alcohol Abuse
- Specializing in Crystal Meth and Sexual Compulsivity
- Residential & Intensive Outpatient Programs
- Exclusively providing the LGBT community a comfortable safe alternative to traditional treatment programs for over 28 years.

Brighten your future - contact us today.
www.pride-institute.com | 952.934.7554/ 800.547.7433





**AIR CONDITIONER
BLOW OUT
SALE**

IMMEDIATE CASH SAVINGS!

\$1,500 OFF a premium A/C
 with the purchase and installation of any furnace.

Not valid with any other offer. Some restrictions apply.
 Installation must be completed by 9/16/16.

\$50 OFF
 a furnace *or*
 A/C performance tune-up

Not valid with any other offer.
 Tune-up must be completed by 9/16/16.
 Offer does not apply to Smart Club membership.

OR

Double Your Savings!
 For a total of
\$100 OFF
 a furnace *and*
 A/C performance tune-up

when performed at the same time

Call **612-503-8090** or visit
standardheating.com today.



TWO GREAT DINING DESTINATIONS IN ONE BUILDING!



UNION ROOFTOP

Features the only year-round glass enclosed
 & heated rooftop in Minnesota with breathtaking
 views of the Downtown Minneapolis skyline.



BAR & GRILL

On the main level, features top quality
 American fare & a variety of bar snacks, burgers,
 sandwiches, tons of TV's, bar games & more!

731 Hennepin Ave. | Downtown Mpls | 612.455.6690 | www.UNIONMPLS.com

2016 Toyota Prius



As I was preparing for the arrival of this “Ride Review” vehicle subject, I looked back at our archives to see what was said about the Toyota Prius. Interesting enough, a poll was taken back in 2012 as to which vehicles represent the GLBT community. Sure enough, the Prius was among the top 10 listed, thanks to your feedback.

Four years later, we still love the Toyota Prius. It seats four to five people, offers good cargo capacity, sips fuel like no other vehicle on the road and emits almost no emissions into the air. For 15 years, Toyota presented this alternative vehicle as the future of the automobile. Who knew it would become as popular as it has been since?

Toyota presented its fourth generation Prius last September in Las Vegas in spectacular fashion. It was a debut that no one would associate with a champion of the environment. Then, the commercials started airing. Toyota had the Prius play both a cop and a robber in a wild highway chase. In all, Toyota wanted to drive home the fact that this is not the Prius we used to know and love.

Granted, it works the same. Yet, this new skin, interior, and the addition of double-wishbone suspension says otherwise. But, how different is the new Prius than any generation before it?

Right off the bat, the Prius is designed to disturb the universe. It will disturb your “old” Prius. The car is lower in stature, more sporty and athletic, and exhibits a set of lines designed to entertain the eye. The front end sports an evil grin, though not as wide as a Cheshire Cat. The headlamps are designed differently for a more directed array of outward lighting. On this Four Touring (the top model of the 2016 Prius line), its fog lamps are more integrated into the front clip.

The body still speaks “hatchback,” but with a sleeker profile. Missing is a pane of glass in the C-Pillar seen on the last two versions of the Prius. Instead, there is a black accent piece to bridge the roof with the beltline. Glass area is longer to minimize blind spots. The hatchback still has a split glass pane, broken up by a protruding spoiler break. From the inside, the optical illusion shows a less distorted view, even with the fastback-like roofline.

Perhaps the most controversial part of the exterior design is the rear end. Partly influenced by the Mirai fuel cell vehicle (sold only in Cali-

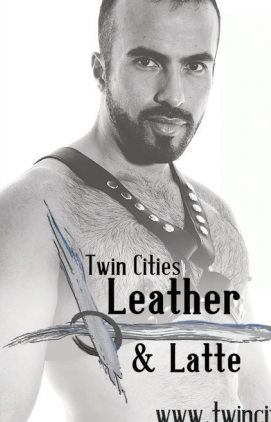
fornia), the Prius sports an unusual three-dimensional tail lamp design framed by a clear plastic housing with multiple lenses framed within a boomerang-shape housing. My automotive history Rolodex tells me that Toyota was hoping to bring back the tailfin design of the late 1950s to early 1960s. Maybe I am exaggerating, but it was one of the things I thought of at multiple glances. This may not be the feature you will love, but it can start conversations quite easily.

If there is one thing that may cause further debate it is the use of the seventeen-inch, five-spoke aluminum wheels with black trim on the rim and inside the spokes. This is a new fashion statement that is starting to permeate in the newest automobiles. They’re different and finish off the look designed to make the Prius stand out more than before. And, yes, you will stand out in this Prius.

When you step into the Prius, there are a few shocks to what was familiar in this vehicle. The center high-positioned instrument cluster has switched to a wider TFT screen with excellent graphics and an abundance of information. An information center offers more than before, including fuel economy history and tracking, and the usual screens still exist, such as the energy transfer map and power rating indicator. On the Four Touring model, there is some white gloss trim to go along with the black upholstery and main interior space. The white contrasting trim is actually quite cool.

Dominating the middle of the instrument panel is a center stack pod crowned with a seven-inch diagonal Entune touch screen. In this model, Bluetooth connectivity, navigation, SiriusXM, and Entune App Suite access are included. There is a Qi wireless mobile charger also included in the Four Touring model. The standard six speakers emit great sound throughout the cabin.

This Four Touring model offered SofTex upholstery that is slicker than real leather, but environmentally friendly. Front seats offer some side bolstering, but the cushions need more thigh support. Yet, these seats proved to be very comfortable for longer trips, such as our big shakedown drive we took up to Duluth, out to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and back through the forests of Northwestern Wisconsin. There is plenty of room in the back, although anyone taller than six feet would have some challenges for headroom. Rear legroom has im-



COFFEE
WITHOUT
CAFFEINE
IS LIKE
SEX
WITHOUT
LEATHER

Twin Cities
Leather
& Latte

2717 Hennepin Ave S.
Minneapolis, MN 55408
(612) 756-9825
www.twincitiesleather.com

Need WINDOWS?

- NO SALESPERSON
- NO PRESSURE
- NO DEPOSIT
- NO GIMMICKS
- LIFETIME WARRANTY

Z E N W I N D O W S

relax. window quotes in 5 minutes
steve@zenwindows.com zenwindowstwincities.com (763) 350-6647

**BIG
GAY
NEWS
COM**

Follow us
@biggaynews



INTRODUCING...
**ROUGH
HOUSE R50**
TITANIUM PACKAGE

612.331.7266

Scooterville
minnesota



\$ 2199

scootervilleMN.com

THE LADIES OF LAFEMME
PRESENTS

18+

GAY 90s

**A BENEFIT FOR
MERCEDES IMAN**

AS SHE COMPETES FOR MISS CONTINENTAL 2016

08 12 16
10pm SHOWTIME

408 Hennepin Ave S • MPLS, MN 55401 • GAY90S.COM

**TOKEN
FRIDAY**

**2FOR1 HAPPY HOUR
2PM-4PM ON ALL DRINKS**

**THE BEST DAMN HAPPY HOUR IN TOWN
3FOR1\$ 4PM-7PM
ON RAIL & SELECT MILLER PRODUCTS**

**REDEEM ANY
EAGLEBOLTBAR TOKEN
FOR \$1 OFF YOUR DRINK
10PM-1AM**



 /EAGLEBOLTBAR  @EAGLEBOLTBAR  @EAGLEBOLTBAR

proved tremendously.

Our model came with all-weather mats that included a huge leaf that the Prius uses as a secondary logo for its lineup. Cargo space is expandable to 27.4 cubic feet with the rear seats down. With the seats up, there is plenty of security for your goodies with a cargo net and a removable sliding cargo cover.

Since 2001, the Toyota Prius has been solely powered by a gasoline-fueled internal combustion engine and electric motor combination known as Hybrid Synergy Drive. For the fourth generation Prius, the four-cylinder gasoline unit is 1.8 liters, which puts out 95 horsepower and 105 pound-feet of torque by itself. The electric motor adds another 71 horsepower and 120 pound-feet of torque to the mix. Toyota advertises a net horsepower rating of 121 between these two power sources. You can switch to four drive modes: Normal, Eco, Power, and EV Only.

This system is connected to a Continuously Variable Transmission, sending power to its front wheels. Toyota has been improving the response with the Hybrid Synergy Drive system, where throttle lag has been minimized and power source transition is no longer felt inside the car. In fact, it is a pretty balanced performer on the road and in the city. You can put regular gas into a 11.2-gallon tank, while the electric motor draws from its Lithium-Ion pack. The overall result is a fuel consumption average of 51.9 MPG, which is right at average according to Toyota.

The Prius hatchback has always exhibited a solid ride and good handling characteristics. The biggest complaint about the driving dynamics of the Prius was the lack of engagement. Toyota went back to the drawing board and installed a double-wishbone rear suspension. The result is an engaging car with a smooth, absorbent ride and excellent handling.

The Prius corners near flat through the curves, which would also put some smiles on the faces of enthusiasts.

The electric steering system, however, felt very artificial. Though it would seem you can make tight maneuvers, there was a lag in doing so and wider than expected turns were executed. Otherwise, it felt just fine out on the road. On-center feel was OK with minimal play at the wheel. Toyota did work on the braking feel for the Prius. The lag in braking response with the regenerative system was eliminated, which made for good stops in normal and panic situations.

Choosing the top Prius model adds the Toyota Safety Sense package. Active safety features included in this tester were a Pre-Collision System with Pedestrian Detection, Lane Departure Alert with Steering Assist, Auto High Beams and Full-Speed Dynamic Radar Cruise Control. Blind spot monitoring, reverse camera and rear cross-traffic alert round out one of the safest Priuses ever offered.

If you are serious about getting the fourth generation Prius, you can start off with a basic Prius Two model. The base price for that model is \$24,000. Our top of the range Prius Four Touring tester came with a sticker price of \$31,827.

If you have a Prius and love it, then you might want to think about this new one. The feedback has been mixed on the exterior styling; however, if you can overlook that element, the rest of the car is absolutely good. It is worth driving to see where Toyota went to work on vehicle engagement and the integration of active safety onto one of their most important products.

The 2016 Toyota Prius is far from the car you currently own and love. Sure, it works the same, but almost everything else is different. And, in this case, different is good! It may become your new favorite car. ■

2016 VOLVO S60 AWD Premier

Genuine Leather/Moonroof/Navigation/Heated Seats/Keyless Drive
36 Month/30,000 Mile Lease



Only **\$398/month** **Sign & Drive**
No Money Out of Your Pocket!

No Money Down
1st Payment, Sales Tax, Title,
License and Fees are Included
Loyalty/Conquest Included
O.A.C. Ends 8/31/16



BORTON VOLVO
GOLDEN VALLEY

BORTONVOLVO.COM / 612.821.2700





FOC
MAP.COM

Fully indexed, Fully Searchable, Friends of Community Map*.
When you can't find it, FOC it!

LAVENDER

**JUKEBOX • VIDEO GAMES • 75¢ POOL TABLES • PINBALL
DARTS • PULL TABS • ATM MACHINE ON PREMISES
OPEN: MON.-FRI. 3 PM-2 AM • SAT.-SUN. 1 PM-2 AM**

ENJOY OUR OUTDOOR SMOKING PATIO

Singles Pool TOURNAMENT

Sunday, August 21 • 4 PM



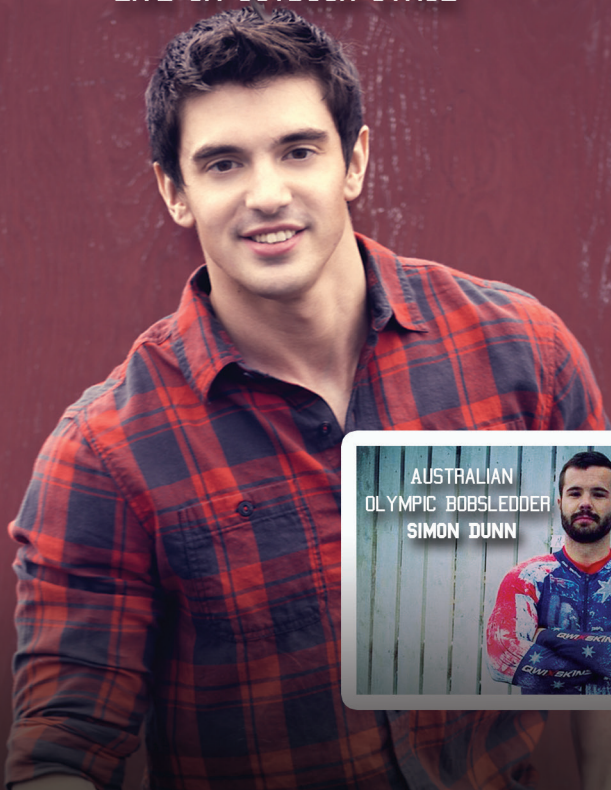
NEVER A COVER CHARGE

PROUDLY SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1952

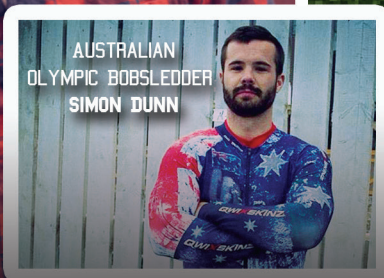
19 W. 15TH STREET, MINNEAPOLIS • (612) 871-5553 • FACEBOOK.COM/THE19BAR

STEVE GRAND

LIVE ON OUTDOOR STAGE



AUSTRALIAN
OLYMPIC BOBSLEDDER
SIMON DUNN



GRAND OPENING

FRIDAY AUGUST 19

GAME

SPORTS BAR

**GATE OPENS AT 4PM
OUTDOOR PARTY 6PM-10PM
NO COVER 21+**

2841 HENNEPIN AVE SOUTH

/GAMEBARMPLS

WWW.GAMEBARMPLS.COM



SWITCH



MillerCoors



The New Normal

"I'm so tired of hurting."

The words, spoken by Emily, a mid-twentyish former work colleague, came as she and I sat at a downtown bar catching up. Our conversation was unremarkable until we both spied a CNN nighttime image of panicked people — throngs, actually — running down a palm tree-lined street in Nice, France. The television screen was punctuated by the word, "Live."

It was me who prompted Emily's response with, "It looks like another terror attack."

More terror. More victims. More fear.

Purely by coincidence, this was July 14, the 50th anniversary of Richard Speck's murder of eight Chicago nursing students, a crime that many consider to be the first random mass murder in U.S. history.

While I'm talking about the near ancient past, let me relate that less than three weeks after Speck's crime, on August 1, 1966, Charles Whitman killed 14 people and wounded another 32, shooting from the clock tower at the University of Texas in Austin, also the first mass killing of its kind.

I was nine years old when these horrific events occurred and, yes, I remember reading and hearing about them. They were so out of the "ordinary" for that time, a period that preceded even the first metal detectors at airports (something which didn't begin until 1972).

"I've grown up with this all my life," Emily said, reminding that she was ten years old when 9/11 happened. Later, she would write to me and say, "It's gotten to the point where death is a pretty common, normal thing I think about. Like, I could be sitting on a bus and the thought crosses my mind that someone with an agenda and a lot of rage could just hop on and start shooting. And I wouldn't be able to do a thing about it."

Given that we invaded Afghanistan in the fall of 2001, it's understandable why Emily might think about death way more than I did at her age; hell, for more than half her life, this country has been at war, giving rise to mass terror bombings, shootings, and deaths with sharp objects across the planet. That's in addition to the non-terrorist, dare I say "routine," mass murders carried out at schools, colleges, shopping malls, fast-food restaurants, and gay night clubs in urban and rural areas, something which now occurs somewhere in the United States or else-

where at least weekly.

Indeed, it's getting to the point where we can't raise the flag from half-staff because of the sheer number of mass killings here and abroad. I'm even writing about mass killings in back-to-back columns.

I've realized that the world of my childhood, where no one would even think to fear being gunned down riding a bus, no longer exists. The thought makes my heart hurt.

It also makes me indignant.

What the fuck are we doing to each other and our kids?

Sorry about my French (no pun intended whatsoever) but someone's got to ask.

By the way, it's true; there's now a level of fear and mistrust that's become the new normal. It's like a low-grade fever, simmering in the background, and always at risk of blowing up into something life-threatening.

Or life-taking.

Humans, like all other living things, need to feel secure. It's why we used to build forts and walled cities and why today, there's a thriving business in deadbolt locks.

But what if you can't actually feel safe? What if the daily barrage of death from across the world is enough to permanently flip a hyper-fear, super-insecure switch? What then?

Emily summed it up best: "I feel like I've lived through events that the news has called 'the worst, most horrific tragedy of our time' and then something happens the week after that is even worse. And again. And again. And again. And then I find myself scrolling through it on Facebook like it's just another article about the weather. It's messed up. Then I wonder what all of this trauma is going to do to our collective mind 30 years down the road."

Thirty years? That's an awful lot of the new normal. I truly hope you survive it, Emily. ■

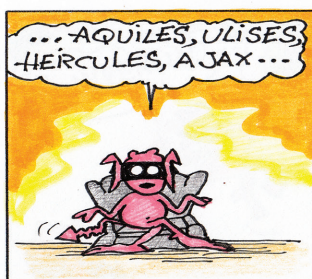
Ellen (Ellie) Krug is the author of Getting to Ellen: A Memoir about Love, Honesty and Gender Change (2013). She frequently speaks and trains on diversity and inclusion topics; visit her website at www.elliekrug.com where you can sign up for her newsletter. She welcomes your comments at ellenkrugwriter@gmail.com.

TROLÍN, UN DIABLITO ROSA

POR RODRO



Greek Superheroes are the best ...
Les superhéros grecs sont les meilleurs...



.. Achilles, Odysseus, Hercules, Ajax ...
... Achille, Ulysse, Hercule, Ajax



But they fare poorly. They are bankrupt.
Par contre, ils vont mal. Ils sont en faillite.



How will we do with Superman, Batman, Spiderman and Mickey Mouse?
Comment irons-nous avec Superman, Batman, Spiderman et Mickey Mouse?

CLASSIFIEDS

COFFEE HOUSES

Fireroast, a gay-owned community coffee shop. Food & coffee created by a staff that cares! Meeting Space with a gender neutral restroom. 3800 37th Ave S, Minneapolis.

HOUSE CLEANING

TERRY LIDDELL, Residential cleaning. Dependable - Honest. Excellent references. Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, flexible schedules in Minneapolis. Call Terry: (612) 834-4887, thecleaningguy99@gmail.com.

JEWELERS

Read our reviews! At Uniquely Yours Custom Designed Jewelry, we create unique engagement & wedding rings, & more! Expert jewelry restorations & repairs. Passion fuels everything we create. **READ OUR REVIEWS!** www.uniquelyyourscustomjewelry.com 612-746-0508

OFFICIANTS

Rev. Gennifer Johnson, Blessed Harmony Spiritual. Ordained minister, wedding and event planning, premarital planning, Flower of Life Meditational Workshops. (715) 475-8268, www.blessedharmonyspiritualservices.com.

Personalized services. Civil and religious weddings. (651) 353-7777. www.wedyourway.net. English-Spanish Bilingual. It's your day. Make it your way!

PRIVATE INVESTIGATIONS

AUTHENTIC INVESTIGATIONS, LLC. Investigations and Protective Services provided to corporations, insurance companies, and private individuals. We're a great asset to HR and the insurance industry! Licensed, bonded and insured in Minnesota and Wisconsin. www.authenticinvestigations.com, (612) 871-7244.

REAL ESTATE

BUYING? SELLING? RELOCATING? Instant Access to Minneapolis & Nation's Top Gay Realtors. We Represent You! WWW.GAYREALESTATE.COM.

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE

Is day to day tension & stress making you a pain to be around? Let's work together to relieve your stress & achieve relaxation through massage. Reverent Massage by Tony. (612) 326-0518 for rates & availability.

STRONG & RELAXING hands, resulting in bodywork at its best! Bruck, MT, DC in South Minneapolis @ (612) 306-6323.

TRAVEL RENTAL

Lake Superior Waterfront Vacation Rental. Spacious studio with separate entrance and bath in a private home. Great amenities! 15 miles from Bayfield. Beach. Visit: www.keithscabin.com for more information.

ADVERTISER INDEX

Adult	Financial	Legal
MegaMates.....53	Moltaji, Roya.....23	Bortel Firm, LLC.....8
Apparel & Accessories	ROR Tax Professionals.....41	Cloutier Law Offices.....13
Twin Cities Leather & Latte.....49	US Bank.....7	Heltzer Law Office.....7
Arts & Entertainment	Floral & Garden	Jerry Burg, Attorney at Law.....41
Electric Fetus.....23	Best Wishes Floral.....29	Robichaud & Alcantara, PA.....15
Automotive	Gifts	Media & Communications
Barton Volvo.....50	Fantasy Gifts.....53	MPR & The Current.....40
Fiat Minneapolis.....43	Grocery Stores	Radio K 770.....40
LaMietty's Collision.....11	Whole Foods Market.....37	Optical
Morrie's Luxury Auto.....5	Health & Wellness	Origins Eye Clinic.....7
Rosedale Chevrolet.....43	Associated Skin Care Specialists, PA.....23	Organizations
Scotterville.....49	Baulevard Chiropractic.....11	Twin Cities Quorum.....41
Bakeries	Mill District Dental.....12	Real Estate & Rentals
Just Truffles.....29	Northland Therapy Center.....12	Richardson, Beth.....39
Bars & Nightlife	Parkside Dental.....13	Ruzick, Amy & Johnson, Kay.....40
19 Bar.....51	Pride Institute.....47	Religious
eagleBOLBar.....49	Right at Home.....23	SpringHouse Ministry Center.....40
Gay 90's.....49	University of Minnesota,	Pilgrim Lutheran Church.....35
Union Bar & Grill.....1,47	Infectious Diseases.....9	Restaurants
Uptown Restaurant Group.....51	Uptown Dermatology & SkinSpa.....13	Al Vento.....19
Beauty & Relaxation	Home Furnishings & Accessories	Burger Moe's.....17
Roosters Men's Grooming.....37	Merriment Adornments.....23	French Meadow Bakery & Café.....17
Beverages	Home Services	Icshouse.....19
AM Craft.....4	Flooring Expo, Carpet King.....8	Jakeeno's Pizza & Pasta.....19
Haskell's.....17	C.A.P. Carpet & Flooring.....11	Blue Plate.....19
Lakeside Wine & Spirits.....15	House Lift Remodeler.....15	McGoy's Public House.....19
Lowry Hill Liquors.....15	Standard Heating & Air Conditioning.....47	Melting Pot, The.....19
Vine Park Brewing Company.....39	Trinity Exteriors.....25	Red Cow.....17
Casinos	Zen Windows.....49	W.A. Frost.....31
Mystic Lake Casino.....25	Insurance	Sports & Recreation
Event Venues & Services	Bartell, Dawn.....7	The Fit Tourist.....25
D'Amico & Partners.....35	Ron Strychar, Horizon Agency.....23	Travel & Accommodations
DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington - Minneapolis South.....39	Jewelry	Afton House B&B.....39
Gale Mansion.....24	Arthur's Jewelers.....9	Barkers Island Inn.....31
Lake Elmo Inn Event Center.....40	Ehinger Schwartz 1876.....35	Bluefin Bay.....29
Lancer Catering.....45	Half Diamonds.....31	Discover St. Louis Park.....37
Events	JB Hudson Jewelers.....10	The InterContinental Hotel, Citizen Supper Club.....39
Lavender First Thursdays.....59	Max's.....25	Wedding Resources
Lavender's Score Thursdays.....59	Scheherazade Jewelers.....35	Bluefin Bay.....29
Minnesota State Fair.....2	Shane Co.....27	Dellwood Country Club.....25
Phlofetti.....31	Uniquely Yours Custom Jewelry.....29	DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington - Minneapolis South.....39
The Wedding Guys.....3	Wedding Day Diamonds.....60	Just Truffles.....29



FREE TO LISTEN AND REPLY TO ADS
Free Code: Lavender

1-888-MegaMates™

FIND REAL GAY MEN NEAR YOU

Minneapolis:
(952) 938-8700 (763) 226-2929
(612) 465-7255

St. Paul:
(651) 305-2737 www.megamates.com 18+



BECAUSE NOTHING SAYS "SOMEONE'S GETTIN' MARRIED!"

LIKE A PECKER PIÑATA!

WE'VE GOT ALL YOUR PRE-WEDDING PARTY PROPS

Fantasy Gifts®

VIBRATORS • PERSONAL TOYS • MASSAGE OILS
LUBRICANTS • PARTY NOVELTIES • BOOKS
LINGERIE SIZES SMALL-4X • ADULT DVDS
SHOES SIZES 6-14 • AND SO MUCH MORE!

9 STORE LOCATIONS


Shop • Maps • Info: FantasyGifts.com • FantasyGiftsMN.com

ACCOUNTING & BOOKKEEPING



Karen R Palm CPA CFP
TAX preparation
FEE ONLY financial planning
NO product sales
612-379-1393
www.palmkcpa.com

ATTORNEYS



Gay B. Clapp, Attorney
Wills, Estates and Trusts
Integrity and Compassion
Twin Cities Legal Service, PLLC
7201 Ohms Lane - Ste. 215, Edina, MN 55415
www.lindawray.com • 952-232-6465

AUTO DEALERS



**You have a friend at
Rosedale Chevrolet,
Call Dewey Lysen at
(612) 805-8232**
Honor all buying programs and credit
union deals! Good or Bad credit accepted.
ROSEDALE CHEVROLET www.rosedalechev.com

AUTO REPAIR & SERVICE

LaMettry's®
Collision, Glass and More!
1-888-898-0016 LAMETTRY.COM
- 8 locations - Free estimates
- Locally & family owned



Family Owned & Operated
For Over 60 Years!
HAGEN'S AUTO BODY
FREE Estimates • All Insurance Accepted
Lifetime Repair Warranty
28th & Lyndale Ave. S, Mpls • 612-872-6671
WWW.HAGENSAUTOBODY.COM

BEAUTY & RELAXATION

LuminousYou Laser and
Aesthetic MediSpa
We specialize in acne treatment and prevention,
skin cancer prevention, BOTOX, laser hair removal and
laser skin rejuvenation.
651-900-1295 • LUMINOUS-YOU.COM

ELDERS/SENIORS



matrix
Home Health Care Specialists
**Home Care & Care Management
for Senior GLBT**
Call for your FREE consultation today.
952.525.0505
MatrixHomeHealthMN.com

EMPLOYMENT

**ADVERTISING ACCOUNT
EXECUTIVE WANTED**
Work as a print and/or online
Advertising Account Executive
for Lavender Media, leaders in
GLBT marketing and events.
Send cover letter & resume to:
barry@lavendermagazine.com
No phone calls please.

FINANCIAL PLANNING SERVICES



**THOUGHTFUL
FINANCIAL PLANNING**
Timothy J. LaPean, CFP®, ADPA®
(612) 460-7355
Timothy@thoughtfulfp.com
ThoughtfulFinancialPlanning.com
Objective advice instead of
commission-based sales

GUN SHOPS



**Bill's
Gun Shop
& Range**
• Fully stocked firearms dealer
• Indoor shooting facilities
• Training courses
Robbinsdale, MN • 763-533-9594
Circle Pines, MN • 763-792-4867
Hudson, WI • 715-690-1198
www.billsGS.com

HEALTH & WELLNESS



MARK CARLSON
Health, Life and Business Coach
Call Mark at 763-238-8455
www.tremendoustransformation.com
www.tremendoustransformationstfl.tsfl.com
**TREMENDOUS
TRANSFORMATIONS**

HEALTH & WELLNESS

**Central Medical Pain
& Addiction Clinic**
(651) 644-6002



Dr. Alfonso Morales, M.D.
D.A.B.P.M

Medication Assisted Treatment

Let us help you with:

- Meth Addiction
- Alcoholism
- Opiate Dependency
- Chronic Pain
- Hormone Replacement Therapy

Immigration Vaccine & Prep Vaccine Help!
Habla Español

393 North Dunlap Street, LL34, St. Paul, MN 55104
www.centralmedicalmn.com

HOME SERVICES

MATT'S TREE SERVICE
CABLING, PRUNING, & REMOVALS
LICENSED AND INSURED
Residential & Commercial Services
ISA Certified Arborist on Staff
Tree Removal • Tree Trimming • Chipping • Stump Grinding
Storm Damage • Lot Clearing • Hedge & Shrub Pruning
Emerald Ash Borer, Dutch Elm Disease
and Oak Wilt protection treatments
25+ yrs. Experience
Credit Cards accepted
Office: 612-706-8210



Serving you for 100 years! **SINCE 1914**

SODERLIN
PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR
612-721-4080

Serving the entire Twin Cities Area
Emergency Service Available

WWW.SODERLIN.COM

Licensed, Bonded & Insured
LICENSE #58002PM & 3272MB



THE NETWORK

HOME SERVICES

Good Stuff MOVING
651-488-4808
Small Local Company
Very best service for
the very best price.
www.goodstuffmoving.com



Aavalon Services
Exceptional Carpet Cleaning and More



Impossible to Forget
651-636-0288 www.AavalonServices.com

SOS HOMECARE

RESTORATION • RENOVATION
MAINTENANCE • REPAIR
CARPENTRY • KITCHENS • TILING • PLASTERING
BATHROOM • CONCRETE • DECKS • PATIOS
FREE ESTIMATES

Your Complete Professional HomeCare Company
SOS-HOMECAREANDREMODELING.COM

TODD OR LEE
612-374-3222
MN LIC#BC-20270903



SHELTER
ARCHITECTURE

Not Afraid of
Unique?
[neither are we]

let's talk.
612.870.4081 | shelterarchitecture.com



INSURANCE

State Farm
Davina Baldwin
www.davinabaldwin.com
763.535.4788
6262 Boone Ave. N.
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428
davina@davinabaldwin.com
Auto | Home | Life | Health | Business



Davina M. Baldwin

INSURANCE

An exceptional COMMUNITY
deserves exceptional service.
Steve Wolfson
612-822-1190
1516 West Lake St., Ste. 203 • Minneapolis
swolfson@farmersagent.com



FARMERS
INSURANCE

REAL ESTATE

"The Professional Service
and Results you Deserve"

Marilyn Farinella
Fun Experience, Serious Results

COLDWELL BANKER BURNET

Marilyn Farinella, GRI
612.644.0451
mfarinella@cbburnet.com
www.MarilynFarinella.com



Nancy Walker
Live Well... Invest Wisely!

COLDWELL BANKER BURNET
Making Dreams Come Home™

www.thenancywalkerteam.com
nwalker@cbburnet.com
612.827.9537





Advertise your business in
THE NETWORK
Call 612-436-4698



LAVENDER

GLBT News & Lifestyle
at your fingertips?
APPsolutely!



Available on the App Store

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Community Connection brings visibility to local GLBT-friendly non-profit organizations. To reserve your listing in Community Connection, call 612-436-4698 or email advertising@lavendermagazine.com.

ADOPTION

MN ADOPT

Finding families for Minnesota's Waiting Children, providing pre/post adoption services to all Minnesota adoptive families.
777 Raymond Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55114
(612) 861-7115
www.mnadopt.org

ADVOCACY

Arise Project

Committed to LGBTQ homeless youth; providing services and safety in times of need.
404 S. 8th St.,
Minneapolis, MN 55404
(612) 340-7500
www.gtcuw.org/arise

Rainbow Health Initiative

Committed to advancing the health and wellness of LGBTQ communities through research, education and advocacy.
2021 E. Hennepin Ave., Ste. 220
Minneapolis, MN 55413
(612) 206-3180
www.rainbowhealth.org

AIDS/HIV INFO & TREATMENT

Aliveness Project, The

Community Center for Individuals Living with HIV/AIDS – On-site Meals, Food Shelf and Supportive Services.
3808 Nicollet Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55409
(612) 824-LIFE (5433) www.aliveness.org

Indigenous Peoples Task Force

Servicing Individuals living with HIV/AIDS
Offering Case Management services, FREE HIV testing and educational groups
1335 E. 23rd St
Minneapolis, MN 55404
(612) 889-4636 or (612) 719-2540
www.indigenouspeoplesif.org

MN AIDS Project - AIDS Line

Statewide referral service for HIV information & resources including testing, care services, education around PrEP.
2700 Territorial Rd.
St. Paul, MN 55114
Metro: (612) 373-AIDS, Statewide: (800) 248-AIDS
mapaidline@mnaidsproject.org
<http://www.mnaidsproject.org>

Park House

Day health / mental health treatment program for adults living with HIV/AIDS.
710 E. 24th St., Ste. 303
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 871-1264
www.allina.com/ahs/anw.nsf/page/park_house_home

U of MN HIV Research Studies

Looking for HIV+ and HIV- individuals to participate in research studies.
420 Delaware St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455
(612) 625-7472
hiv.umn.edu

BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

Twin Cities Quorum

Your GLBTQA chamber of commerce working to invigorate, build & partner for a diverse business community.
18 N. 12th St., Ste. 3606
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 460-8153
www.twincitiesquorum.com

EDUCATION

Crosswinds Arts and Science School

A Perpich Center for Arts Education middle school focused on diversity, inclusion, and student success.
600 Weir Dr.
Woodbury, MN
(651) 379-2600
crosswindsmn.org

Minneapolis College of Art & Design (MCAD) Continuing Education

MCAD Continuing Education offers art and design classes year-round for kids, teens, and adults.
2501 Stevens Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55404
(612) 874-3765
www.mcad.edu/ce

EVENT VENUES

Gale Mansion

A beautiful historic mansion located just south of downtown Minneapolis for private or corporate entertaining.
2115 Stevens Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55407
(612) 870-1662
www.galemansion.com

Germanic-American Institute

Germanic-American Institute - Old World Charm as the perfect backdrop for your wedding day.
301 Summit Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55102
651-222-7027
www.gai-mn.org

Minneapolis City Hall & Hennepin County Courthouse

Step back in time and enjoy a historically beautiful wedding at the Minneapolis City Hall.
350 S. 5th St.
Minneapolis, MN 55415
(612) 596-9518
www.municipalbuildingcommission.org/Events.html

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Family Tree Clinic

LGBTQ Health Matters at Family Tree! Offering respectful, affordable sexual health services to meet your needs.
1619 Dayton Ave.
St. Paul, MN
(651) 645-0478
www.familytreeclinic.org

NAMI Minnesota

(National Alliance on Mental Illness)
Providing free classes and peer support groups for people affected by mental illnesses.
800 Transfer Rd. #31
St. Paul, MN 55114
(651) 645-2948
www.namihelps.org

LIBRARY

Quatrefoil Library

Your GLBT Library with stacks of DVDs, books, and magazines. Check out our online catalogue.
1220 E. Lake St.
Minneapolis, MN 55407
(612) 729-2543
www.qlibrary.org

MUSEUM

Minnesota Historical Society Sites & Museums

Make the Minnesota Historical Society's 26 historic sites and museums part of your vacation plans.
www.mnhs.org

MUSIC

Radio K 770

Radio K is the student-run radio station of the University of Minnesota
330 21st Ave. S.
610 Rarig Center
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 625-3500
www.radiok.org

PERFORMING ARTS

CANTUS

"The premier men's vocal ensemble in the United States." – Fanfare Magazine
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 435-0055
www.cantussings.org

Hennepin Theatre Trust

Orpheum, State, Pantages and New Century Theatres
Twin Cities' best live entertainment: Broadway shows, music concerts, comedy, dance and more!
Minneapolis, MN
1-800-982-2787
www.HennepinTheatreTrust.org

History Theatre

Plays and musicals telling Minnesota stories by Minnesota artists for Minnesota audiences.
30 E. 10th St.
St. Paul, MN
(651) 292-4323
www.HistoryTheatre.com

Jungle Theater

Professional theater producing contemporary and classic works in an intimate setting in the Lynlake neighborhood.
2951 Lyndale Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55408
(612) 822-7063
JungleTheater.com

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Minnesota Orchestra

Enriching, inspiring and serving our community as a symphony orchestra internationally recognized for artistic excellence.

1111 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 371-5656
(800) 292-4141
www.minnesotaorchestra.org

Northrop - University of Minnesota

An epicenter of discovery and transformation celebrating innovation in the arts, performance, and academics.

84 Church St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414
(612) 625-6600
northrop.umn.edu

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts

Hosting, presenting, and creating performing arts and educational programs that enrich diverse audiences.

345 Washington St.
St. Paul, MN
(651) 224-4222
www.ordway.org

The Minnesota Opera

MN Opera invites you to enjoy 20% off any non-opening performance. Use code **lavender20**.

620 North First Street
Minneapolis, MN 55401
612-333-6669
mnopera.org

Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus

An award-winning chorus that builds community through music and offers entertainment worth coming out for!

528 Hennepin Ave., Suite 307
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 339-SONG (7664)
chorus@tcgmc.org
www.tcgmc.org

VocalEssence

Now in our 47th year, VocalEssence is a leading arts organization based in Minnesota.

1900 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55403
(612) 547-1451
www.vocalescence.org

POLITICS & RIGHTS

OutFront Minnesota

Delivering programs/services in the area of public policy, anti-violence, education, training and law.

310 E. 38th St., Ste. 204
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 822-0127
www.outfront.org

PRIDE

Twin Cities Pride

Producers of the third-largest national Pride celebration seeks sponsors, volunteers, board members. Contact us today.

2021 E. Hennepin Ave., Ste. 402-7
Minneapolis, MN 55413
(612) 255-3260
www.tcpride.org

REAL ESTATE

Parade of Homes

Presented by Builder Association of the Twin Cities

Where dream homes come true.
www.paradeofhomes.org

RELIGIOUS & SPIRITUAL

All God's Children Metropolitan Community Church

A radically inclusive community committed to being All God's Children FOR all God's children! 3100 Park Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55407
(612) 824-2673
www.agcmcc.org

Central Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Exploring the promise of God for all. 333 S. 12th St.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 870-4416
www.centralmpls.org

Edina Community Lutheran Church

Upbeat, growing congregation committed to inclusion, justice, peace, community and proclaiming God's YES to all. 4113 W. 54th St.
Edina, MN
(952) 926-3808
www.eclc.org

First Christian Church - Disciples of Christ

A Movement for Wholeness In A Fragmented World.

610 W. 28th St.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 870-1868
www.fccminneapolis.org

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Inclusive Christian Worshipping community that seeks, nurtures and empowers hungry minds and souls.

1935 St. Clair Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55105
(651) 699-6886
www.pilgrimstpaul.org

Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis

Spiritual, Loving, Relevant, Transforming.
Find us on Facebook and Twitter
1900 Nicollet Ave. at Franklin
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 871-7400
www.plymouth.org

St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral

inquiring INSPIRING inclusive. Wherever you are on your faith journey, St Mark's welcomes you. 519 Oak Grove St.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 870-7800
www.ourcathedral.org

The House of Hope Presbyterian Church

A thoughtful, gracious faith community welcoming all people. 797 Summit Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55105
(651) 227-6311
www.hohchurch.org

United Methodist Reconciling Churches

Congregations around Minnesota that intentionally welcome all people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.
www.mnrcumc.org

Westminster Presbyterian Church

An inclusive, welcoming, open and affirming congregation. Nicollet Mall at 12th St.
Downtown Minneapolis
(612) 332-3421
www.westminstermpls.org

SPORTS & RECREATION

Twin Cities Goodtime Softball League (TCGSL)

Join 500 GLBT softball players as we celebrate 36 years of gay softball in Minnesota. P.O. Box 580264
Minneapolis, MN
www.tcgsl.org

STATE FAIRS

Minnesota State Fair

The "Great Minnesota Get-Together" provides a world-class showcase that is innovative, entertaining and fun.

1265 Snelling Ave. N.
St. Paul, MN 55108
(651) 288-4400
www.mnstatefair.org

TRAVEL

Discover Stillwater

Voted best weekend getaway! Birthplace of Minnesota. Distinctive lodging. Shop / Dine / Cruise / Art Galleries / Nightlife. Stillwater, MN 55082
(651) 351-1717
www.DiscoverStillwater.com

Visit Duluth

Lake Superior. Historic waterfront. Vibrant arts & dining. Adventure. Hotels and B&Bs. Attractions and events. 21 W. Superior St., Ste. 100
Duluth, MN
(218) 722-4011, (800) 4-DULUTH
www.visitduluth.com

The Power of Arts Learning

It wasn't very large for a high school, but it was just right for me. Dance technique class for 90 minutes daily, a small teacher-to-student ratio, and a freedom of expression beyond compare. It was a place where creation and risk-taking were encouraged. It was a place where being weird was more a norm than a difference. It was a place where it was safe to be gay. Yes, I was one of the lucky ones who had the privilege of attending a performing arts high school.

Main Street School of Performing Arts was a home for me and so many other students looking for a place to be themselves. Having recently returned to help out in their outreach and development office, I've had the pleasure of reaching out to other alumni to hear how the school has impacted their adult lives.

While plenty of students have graduated from MSSPA and gone on to successfully work in a creative field, the impact of an arts learning environment goes deeper than the development of performing arts techniques alone. For alum Laura Mogilevsky it sparked an interest in thinking globally, "MSSPA played a huge role in my decision to major in anthropology at Knox College. My favorite class at Main Street, world dance, shed some light onto the ways in which dance has influenced various cultures and religions that are spread throughout the world and, more importantly, turned my love for dance into more than a hobby."

Another Main Street alum, Ella Beaudoin, was awarded a fellowship in Research Experience for Undergraduates, a research opportunity funded by the National Science Foundation supporting research of damage to million-year-old stone tools at an excavation site in South Africa. When asked about how arts learning has influenced the work that she does, Beaudoin shared, "I honestly don't think that I would have ever been able to do everything that I have done without my theater background. Being involved in theater taught me not only how to juggle a million things all at once, but also the importance of reliability and dependability. Another thing theater showed me is that you cannot operate as a singular unit. It takes so many people supporting one another to get anywhere and all that theater training has been amazingly useful for conferences and presentations!"

What I tend to hear a lot, a real misconception about performing arts high schools, is that academic rigor must not be as strongly valued as in a "normal" school, but for alumni like Mogilevsky and Beaudoin, the arts focus provided a gateway to think globally, and sparked an interest in what happen to be very academically competitive fields. In fact, MSSPA offers a plethora of AP courses and many students have gone on to attend prestigious colleges like NYU, Berkeley, Ithaca, and Loyola.

Then there are people like Paige Klone. This class of 2007 alum recently attended the Golden Globes for her work as an executive assistant to the producer of *Mozart in the Jungle*, which took home the win for Best Television Series – Musical or Comedy. That producer happened to be Jason Schwartzman, her latest employer in Los Angeles, where she has



Photos by Stephen Geffre

lived since 2012. Klone relocated to Hollywood after finishing her undergrad in writing and producing for television at Columbia Chicago. Klone has also worked closely with Jamie Kennedy and David Koechner, assisting with life as well as their television and film projects. In addition to assisting on A-list film sets, Klone continues to write and produce her own projects. With a career that requires exemplary creativity, stamina, and resilience, Klone credits Main Street for her drive. As she shared, "Going to a performing arts high school taught me that the more you put into something, the more you get out of it. To create something consistently every single day, bad or good, because the more you create, the more you'll learn."

"Main Street helped me be a well-rounded artist. Not only did I learn critical skills within my discipline, but I also absorbed so many things that I never thought I would need to know," shared 2008 MSSPA grad, James Ellington, who has been working between New York City and Los Angeles.

Since graduating, this busy alum founded the NYC Artist collective RVDIOVCTIVE, worked as marketing director for Dubspot Electronic Music School, and even worked as a music producer for a video game project with Disney and Xbox.

Ellington credits Main Street for the opportunity to explore: "MSSPA helped prepare me to be a professional in the arts. It cut years off of the learning curve and by the time I left high school, I was ready to get to work. It gave me valuable experience that may have taken years of trial and error to achieve. Additionally, it helped me solidify a direction. I didn't leave MSSPA knowing everything, but I left knowing what I needed to learn, and what next steps to take...you can try out different things and learn about who you are as an artist in a supportive environment. Equally as important is the mentorship; too often in the arts people are alone in their endeavors, working without the honest feedback and criticism they need to grow. To have teachers investing in your growth by teaching and guiding you is unbelievably valuable. I was pushed to do things that I never thought I could do, and was given honest feedback that may have hurt my ego at the time, but was critical for me in the long run."

I would not say that I am well read enough to speak volumes on education reform, but from where I'm standing, the charter model is gold and gave Main Street the agency to develop self-starting young adults to incredible results. This article may read like a shameless promotion of my alma mater, but in all honesty, this school, my home, is struggling to keep enrollment up and I'll be damned if I don't do everything I can to spread the word on the little school that could, and can, and should for years to come. Keeping a tuition-free charter school healthy and alive is no easy task. It takes lots of support from the community. Main Street School of Performing Arts is going into their 14th year and if these alumni are any indication, the future is looking bright. ■

Learn more at www.msspahs.org.

LAVENDER'S
FIRST THURSDAYS
The Twin Cities GLBT Community Happy Hour

Thursday, September 1
5:30 - 8:00 PM
LONGFELLOW GRILL
2990 W River Pkwy • Minneapolis



PRESENTED BY:



Shane Co.

ALSO SPONSORED BY

BA Law

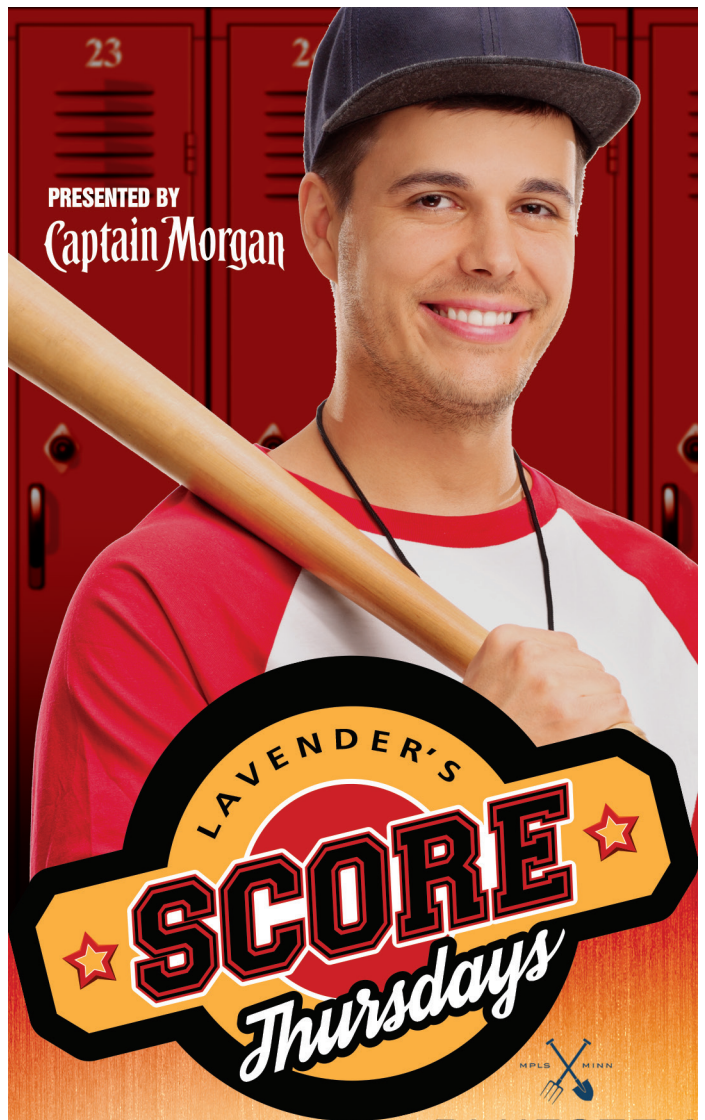
Come as you are – no dress code.
Enjoy Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres, Drink Specials,
and a chance to register to Win Great Prizes!

FOUNDING HOST PARTNER ORGANIZATION
HRC Twin Cities

HOST ORGANIZATIONS

OutFront Minnesota, Twin Cities Quorum, MN AIDS Project, Twin Cities Pride, The Aliveness Project, Prime Timers MSP, Reclaim!, Mixed Blood Theatre, Minneapolis Movie Bears, Freedom Jazz, One Voice, North Country Bears, MN Freedom Band, TCGMC, HCMC's LGBT & Allies Employee Resource Group

PRESENTED BY
Captain Morgan



BLUESTEM

AUG 18
5:30-8:00PM

BLUE STEM
AT FRENCH MEADOW
2610 LYNDAL AVE. S. • MINNEAPOLIS

LAVENDERMAGAZINE.COM/SCORETHURSDAYS

JOIN ATHLETES AND OTHER SPORTS FANS IN THE
COMMUNITY WHILE YOU ENJOY COMPLIMENTARY
APPETIZERS, DRINK SPECIALS AND A CHANCE TO
WIN GREAT PRIZES!

REGISTER TO WIN 1 OF 3
\$100 TARGET GIFT CARDS



PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



Libby Benedict Photography
libbybenedict.com



www.weddingdaydiamonds.com

BURNSVILLE | MAPLEWOOD | BLOOMINGTON | ST. LOUIS PARK
EDEN PRAIRIE | MAPLE GROVE | WOODBURY | ST. CLOUD